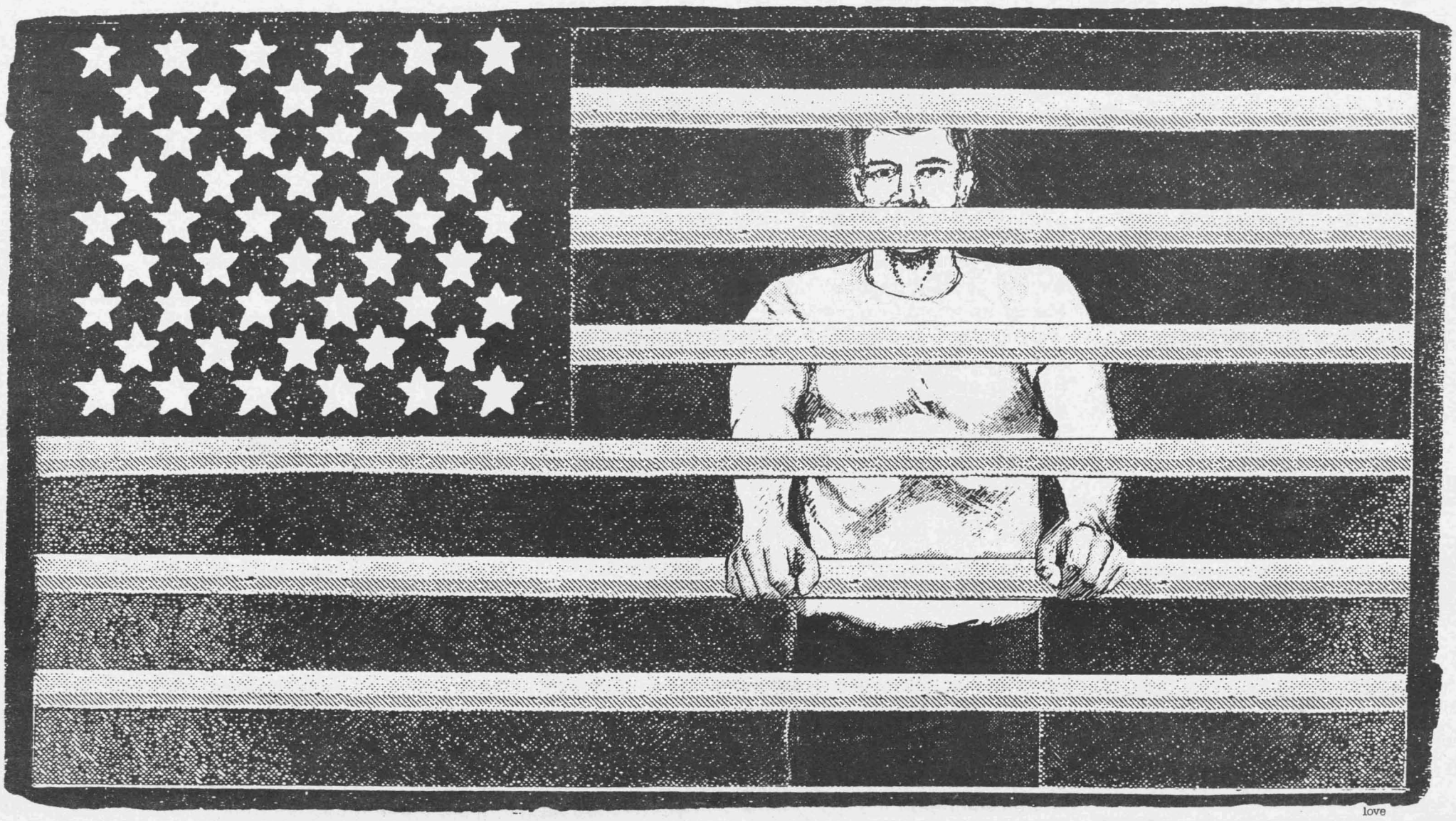
THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5 OCTOBER 1990
FREE

WORKS IN PROGRESS



love

American Political Prisoners

by Blake Morgan

In recent years, human rights and political prisoners have come to the fore as rallying points against tyranny and oppression. A recent benefit tour for Amnesty International featuring Peter Gabriel, Sting, and Bruce Springsteen, has served to heighten public awareness of human rights abuses throughout the world. And for over fifteen years, through the Carter and Reagan administrations, U.S. foreign policy has been based on the rhetoric, if not the reality, of human rights.

While concern is growing about human rights abuses abroad, far less is known about political prisoners and the suppression of human rights in the United States.

The official U.S. stance on political prisoners is that there are none. "While it's true that some of the inmates held here subscribe strongly to certain ideologies, they are not here because they hold those ideological beliefs," says John Clark, Warden of the federal prison for men in Marion, Illinois. "They are here because they have engaged in criminal acts." Critics,such as Amnesty International, charge that there are political prisoners, imprisoned on trumped-up charges and false testimony, convicted under obscure seditious conspiracy laws or creatively applied RICO statutes.

Consider the case of Dr. Alan Berkman. Since the late 1960's, Berkman has been a dedicated political activist. He has used his medical skills in the service of a number of groups, including Native Americans at the 1973 seige at Wounded Knee, and prisoners wounded in the Attica Prison uprising. He is also a founder of the John Brown Anti-Klan League.

In 1982, Berkman was imprisoned for refusing to cooperate with government investigations. He was then indicted for providing medical care to Marilyn Buck, a white activist wounded during the unsuccessful expropriation of a Brinks truck. Berkman jumped bail, living underground until his 1985 capture by FBI agents in Philadelphia.

He was convicted of conspiracy to aid and abet possession of weapons and explosives, bail jumping, and expropriation of funds and sentenced to 12 years in the high security prison in Marion, Illinois. The Marion facility has been condemned by Amnesty International for its inhumane conditions: total lockdown, two hours of recreation per week, no human contact visits, and only two 10-minute phone calls every month.

Critics charge that there are political prisoners, imprisoned on trumped-up charges and false testimony, convicted under obscure seditious conspiracy laws or creatively applied RICO statutes.

Two factors decide what a prisoner's security rating, and thus his or her prison assignment, is. The first is the prisoner's behavior record, and the second is the length of sentence. By this reasoning, Berkman should have been assigned to a medium security prison.

Berkman's high security rating has also threatened his life. In 1986, Berkman was diagnosed as having Hodgkins disease, a cancer of the lymph nodes. The prison doctor at Marion is unlicensed and has never treated Hodgkin's disease.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons tried to have him treated at a prison hospital in Springfield, Missouri. Expert testimony declared this hospital unfit for the treatment of Hodgkin's disease. The Bureau's reasoning behind using the Springfield facility instead of the Rochester, Minnesota U.S. Prison Hospital, which can treat Hodgkin's disease was that the Springfield hospital was more secure. Fortunately, a humanitarian campaign was mounted and resulted in a Federal judge ruling that Berkman be treated in an adequate hospital. Berkman's cancer went into remission.

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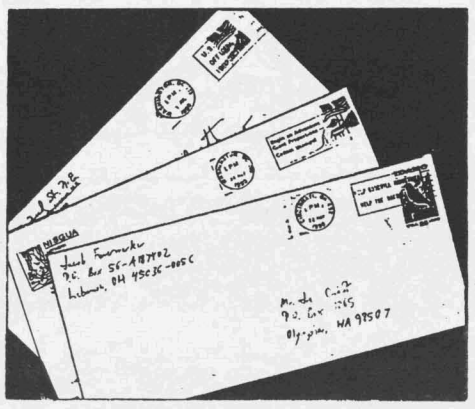


Evergreen Union Addresses Board of Trustees

Ed. note. Shortly after Evergreen State College Joe Olander resigned, the Evergreen Board of Trustees asked for input about the course of action they should take. The following letter was sent to the board by all of the elected representatives of Evergreen employees who are members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 443.

Board of Trustees
The Evergreen State College

September 11, 1990

Dear Board Members,

As elected leaders of Local 443 on campus, we write to offer our ideas on how to preserve and improve the organizational educational integrity of Evergreen, an institution we both work for and believe in.

First, we believe you need to establish administrative stability. We urge you to appoint Vice President Les Purce as Acting President for at least one year.

Second, we believe the Acting President must immediately repair the loss of administrative leadership at the top with the permanent and/or temporary appointments of vacant Vice Presidencies *and* the forging of a renewed common purpose among those individuals who staff the offices. Without these appointments, the institution will not go forward and permanent damage will result.

Third, we believe the Acting President must establish a line of communication with the one organization representing the largest number of workers at Evergreen, Local 443.

The Acting President should meet at least quarterly with the elected union leaders at this college. The purpose of these meetings would be to exchange ideas on how to improve the organizational health and educational life of this institution. These meetings would not replace the Labor/Management meetings.

Fourth, we believe there must be an Evergreen-wide statement condemning the witch hunt conducted by Gannett's Olympian against former President Olander and Evergreen. We define a witch hunt as an attack on a person's personal integrity rather than agreeing to discuss differences of policy or institutional direction.

Without such a statement, faculty and staff at Evergreen will *remain* fearful of expressing their ideas or even doing their work lest they be tried and convicted by Gannett editors and reporters with quotes from Evergreen "leaders" created by the newspaper.

Without such a statement, Evergreen will remain on the defensive; the Olympian will continue to define us, and the substantial reservoir of community support for Evergreen will remain confused and demobilized.

Fifth, we believe there needs to be a renewed commitment to an Evergreen where the learning and working environment is governed by the social contract and not subordinated to the personal agenda of a few unaccountable faculty members.

Finally, we believe that the majority of faculty and union members here at Evergreen are dedicated educators who are committed to creating a rich and innovative environment for learners, old and new.

It's time that faculty and union members who are fellow learners be heard over the self-righteous few. Witch hunts need to be studied not turned into institutional obsessions. Faculty who experiment with new forms of democracy, self-governance and the politics of difference need to be honored over those who tolerate demagogues and their promoters.

There is no doubt that the year long ordeal has hurt Evergreen as an institution. There is a sadness and dismay among our members.

We, however, have remained at work through all of this. Our members are a resilient group of people who have hope that with new administrative leadership Evergreen can regain the educational offensive.

We look forward to your decisions and hope to work with Acting President Purce and other members of the Evergreen community to implement any or all of our suggestions.

Solidarity,
Brad Aiken, Union Steward
Doug Hitch, Union Steward
Joan Hutchings, Union Steward
Helen Lee, Local President
Dan Leahy, Executive Board
Jacinta McKoy, Union Steward
Chuck McKinney, Union Steward
Susan Ramsauer, Union Steward
Sabine Riggins, Union Steward
Helen Stoutnar, Union Steward
Dan Stocklin, Union Steward
Andrea Winship, Union Steward
Patti Zimmerman, Union Steward

Recycle Your Telephone Book

The Olympia area is privy to an experiment. US West Direct and Smurfit recycling is asking our community to recycle previous years' telephone directories.

In the past, telephone books have been scorned and rejected by recyclers, but in a new attempt at recycling, the Olympia area was designated a prime area. Of the 133,000 new directories distributed last month, a projected 40% is anticipated in reclamation.

Depending on our community's response further endeavors will be attempted in the future. This is a chance for Olympia to lead US West's fourteen state region in recycling and at the same time to encourage future collections. There are six drop-off sites conveniently located throughout Olympia.

Take your out-of-date directories to one of these before October 19:

Tumwater
700 Trosper Road SW (AJ's Megafoods)

Olympia
1313 Cooper Point Road SW (Top Foods)
2100 W. Harrison (Peterson's Shop-Rite)

Lacey
3520 Pacific Ave. (Food Pavilion)
8220 Quinault Dr. NE (Hawks Prairie)
4700 Yelm Road SE (Safeway)

Free TESC Graduate School Prep Class

The Evergreen State College is offering a special new course to help potential graduate students make decisions about attending graduate school.

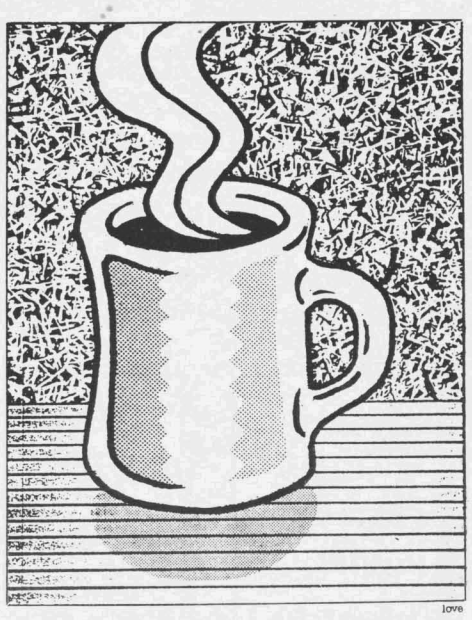
The course, which will meet on campus four Thursday evenings, Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, will begin with participants tracing their personal career paths and projecting them into the future. Students will also explore career options and graduate programs, as well as the opportunities which graduate schools offer. They can receive answers to such questions as, "What can graduate school do for me?", "What do I have to do to apply?" and "Can I handle graduate school on top of a full-time job?"

Taught by Carol Simila-Dickinson, Assistant Director of Graduate Programs at Evergreen, the course is open to the public and free of charge.

Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call 866-6000, ext. 6405.

Correction:

In the September issue, we made an error in Ron Jacob's article, "The Military Option, Drugs, Oil, and Corporate Addiction". The line "They didn't lose a penny, OPEC just raised the prices", should have read, "They didn't lose a penny, the oil companies and OPEC just raised the prices."



Reply from Equal Exchange

Dear Editors,

Thank you for your note, the copy of Works in Progress, and your mention of Equal Exchange. You did manage to mention most of the places our coffeesare available in the Olympia area. The only other places that we know about are the Blue Heron Bakery, and a student cafe (Corner Cafe) at Evergreen. It is possible there are other places that buy from one of our distributors that we don't know about.

We are set up to work with farmers and cooperatives in the Third World.

Our goal is to give them a higher and more fair price as well as more control over the market. I've enclosed a price list and some of our background information so that you can get a better sense of which farmers we work with.

It is difficult and long term work. As you can imagine it can take years to create a trading relationship that works both for our growers and the consumers and stores we see to. In many ways it is the other side of the same coin that Neighbor to Neighbor is working on. They are putting pressures on the multinationals to look at the impacts of the entire system they perpetuate and most importantly organizing citizens. We are trying to build alternatives to the coffee system of Folgers and General Foods.

Your paper looks great. I have your address. Let's keep in communication.

Sincerely

Rink Dickinson, Equal Exchange
101 Tosca Drive
Stoughton, Mass. 02072

Write to us at Works In Progress for a copy of Equal Exchange's price list!

In This Issue . . .

On the day that I write this introduction to the October issue of Works In Progress, Judge David Souter has been accepted by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Just last night I typed in an article regarding his background and now know that only a very male senate, a white senate and a monied senate could endorse this man. A senate that just voted yesterday to require family planning clinics that receive federal money to notify parents of teenagers trying to get abortions.

The article, "Some Things about Souter", is on page 14. Please read it. There is, also , a toll free number beneath it for you to call your senators.

We continue our series of articles on the Washington State Investment Board, this time with letters. Letters written by WSIB members, staff and Exxon.

There are some very interesting comments and analysis on the Middle East situation by Herb Legg, Ron Jacobs, and Stephen Shelton. Tom Connelly is, again, not happy with the proposed capital gains tax cut and Mary McKnew brings insight to the possible outcome of another Disabilities Act.

Dave Jette's first piece with WIP in the September issue, "The Rise and Fall of the Washington Rainbow Coalition", raised a lot of concern among the WSRC leadership. We understand that there will be a formal response and we welcome this opportunity for dialogue.

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. It seeks to promote progressive dialogue and support the principles which guide our work. The articles within do not necessarily represent the views of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.

If you like what you are reading, please join us by becoming a supporting subscriber. Contributions of letters, and articles are appreciated and submissions on subjects not yet touched upon are especially desired.

Until the next issue,
Sylvia Smith, Editorial Board

EDITORIAL BOARD: Gene Cade, Dave Campbell, Tom Connelly, Regina Costa, Tom Freeman, Beth Hartmann, Teresa Jennings, Matt Love, Sylvia Smith, and Patrick Tassoni.

Response to the "Conspiracy of Educational Reform"

by Dennis Bolton

I do not agree nor disagree with Mr. Freeman's assessment of the goals and vision of "policy makers (including the [Hec] Board), the governor, the state legislature and a corporate organization of business executives known as the Washington Round Table". The issue of Public Schools in the State of Washington in decline, however, is the basis of the Washington Education Association Crisis Action Plan for 1990 and beyond. As a Special Education teacher for the past 23 years, I have learned it is of little value to spend time dealing with who we should blame for a problem unless that leads directly to the solution.

The debate, I believe, lies in determining the definition of what it is we as a society want our educational system to produce (in a cumulative sense). I believe we are headed in the wrong direction when we continue to develop exclusionary criteria upon which to evaluate, categorize and eliminate our students. We ought to spend our time determining how we can include more of our children in a rewarding education experience. This can only occur when all of society participates in the discussion. (School employees, parents, students, and the community)

I concur with Mr. Freeman's assessment of the affects of the growing number of restrictions and certification requirements placed on new teachers. It is clear that our legislators have little knowledge of the art of teaching and even less a sense of the results of their actions. In a recent contradiction of current legislative attempts to raise the standards of educational certification, Senator Craswell encouraged the legislature to reduce the requirements for individuals who have already proven themselves in such lofty pursuits as law or medicine. She lamented the fact that Einstein would not be allowed to teach under our present certification requirements. It is unclear whether this renowned thinker could master the art of teaching. We do know that Mr. Einstein had some difficulty mastering the art of being a student and would probably have some difficulty qualifying under Senator Craswell's plan as well.

In a similar but unrelated piece of proposed legislation, Governor Gardner has attempted to tie a quantifiable measure of performance to compensation. One of the components he has suggested is the use of Standardized Test scores. This, at a time when many states across this nation are eliminating Standardized Tests as useless in determining student potential and perhaps harmful to a child's ability to achieve self-actualization. Is there any correlation between a person's ability to perform on a written test and his or her ability to perform as a useful member of society? Governor Gardner further discusses the criteria of reducing the dropout rate and other social problems as a means of determining who is deserving of increased pay. Martin Hayes, in an editorial in the Seattle PI Sunday, September 2, 1990, pointed to the high student turnover rate in many parts of the State of Washington. In regard to the problems accompanying rapid growth, addition of new schools, changing school boundaries, and redistricting he asks the question, "How can you evaluate the performance of an individual school and its teachers if many of those teachers are also being shifted around from school to school?"

One of the components he (Gardner) has suggested is the use of Standardized Test scores. This, at a time when many states across this nation are eliminating Standardized Tests as useless in determining student potential . . .

It is clear that our legislators have little knowledge of the art of teaching and even less a sense of the results of their actions.

As should be readily apparent, the solution to the very complex problem of school reform is not simple. It does, however, demand the full attention of the entire society and ought not be left to a few people with more personal interest than personal knowledge and expertise in the field. I believe the issues are before us as described the Washington Education Association Crisis Action Plan. They are:

Funding - Educating our children should be our highest priority. Compensation - To meet the increasing demand for more and more school employees we must be competitive with the rest of the U.S.

Class size - Current research strongly suggests that if we are to meet the needs of all our children we must provide them individual time to develop a relationship with the learning experience.

Retirement - Our current retirement program encourages school employees to leave the profession to guarantee that life after work will bring comfort and lack of financial stress.

Restructuring and Local Decision Making - Meaningful improvements in education must be initiated and agreed upon at the local level.

It is up to every one of us to demand a public school system which is supported financially and allowed to meet the needs of today and tomorrow rather than continue to sink in the vision of days gone by.

Dennis Bolton is the President of North Thurston Education Association

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"Air America" and the C.I.A.

By Alexander Cockburn

"It's unAmerican," said Pia Lundstrom on WCBS in New York. "Half baked. . .conspiracy theory," wrote Christopher Robbins in twin attacks in the New York Times and Vogue. Similarly unsparing vilification has come from Peter Kann and Phillip Jennings in the Wall Street Journal, and from Time magazine.

The object of all this fury is "Air America," a comedy thriller depicting the adventures of Mel Gibson and Robert Downey Jr. as a pair of Air America pilots operating in Laos in the 1960s, where the United States waged a "secret war."

The film admittedly concentrates on the lighter side of a horrible conflict, but this is not what has excited the critics' greatest fury. The rage stems from recognition of the fact that the Central Intelligence Agency, with the knowledge of higher authorities in Washington, was actively involved in the heroin trade.

It's been interesting to see how quickly cultural SWAT teams have been summoned to savage the film. The last time a mass assault of this nature took place was when Michael Moore released *Roger and Me*, which had the temerity to be anti-corporate in a way that appealed to a mass audience. "Liberals" like Pauline Kael in the *New Yorker* or Judy Stone in the *San Francisco Chronicle* swarmed to attack Moore for innumerable crimes, all of which boiled down to the one central sin of having taken a rather successful and amazing kick at the capitalist way.

In a rather similar way, critics have rushed to the defense of the CIA. Kann and Air America veteran Jennings state that Air America, a CIA proprietary company, was "specifically barred" from carrying drugs, which is scarcely surprising. No one claims the pilots had written approval from the Director of Central Intelligence.

Robbins, who wrote a history of Air America on which the film is loosely based, is more slippery, conceding in his Vogue article that "Air America certainly carried opium during harvest time," while proclaiming in the New York Times that the CIA merely "turned a blind eye" to the drug trading of its client generals.

"Air America," the film, is now suffering the sort of abuse incurred by McCoy. It similarly dares to say the unsayable, and commits the added offense of joking about it.

But charges of CIA implication in the drug trade are by no means new and are very well-founded. The classic work on the subject is Alfred McCoy's "The politics of Heroin in South-East Asia," published in 1972. McCoy's research is legendary. Through interviews with U.S. intelligence, military and aid officials and local sources, including drug traders, he showed in compelling detail how, since World War II, the CIA had supported opium traffickers as allies in the war on communism.

Thus, the CIA maintained a fugitive anti-communist Kuomintang army in Burma that rapidly became the largest supplier of opium in the region. In Laos, the CIA followed in the steps of the previous occupiers, the French, assisting in Hmong opium distribution in return for Hmong services against the communist guerillas.

McCoy and his collaborators were banished from mainstream American academia. They had said the unsayable, describing the process whereby U.S. intelligence officials had connived in the refining of opium into heroin and its subsequent shipment either to Vietnam and into the veins of GIs or to the U.S. mainland.

Sixteen years later, in 1988, my brother and sister-in-law, Andrew and Leslie Cockburn, preparing their WGBH "Frontline" documentary, "Guns, Drugs and the CIA," expanded McCoy's findings with on-camera testimony from U.S. officials involved in the trade.

Ron Rickenback, for example, a former Agency for International Development man who served in Laos at the storm center of the secret war, described how he had seen opium loaded on and off Air America planes. He also described how the CIA had purchased an airline for "General" Vang Pao, leader of the CIA-sponsored Hmong. A former Air America pilot, Neil Hansen, now serving time for marijuana smuggling, described on camera how he and other pilots routinely flew — not unofficially, but under CIA orders — "the sticky bricks," i.e., opium.

Most significantly, former CIA officer Tony Po, now living in Northeast Thailand, said on camera that the CIA knew that Vang Pao was making millions from opium and heroin trafficking. Po gave in precise detail the routes by which Vang moved his heroin from Laos to Vietnam, using planes that the CIA had given him, while maintaining full CIA cooperation.

"Air America," the film, is now suffering the sort of abuse incurred by McCoy. It similarly dares to say the unsayable, and commits the added offense of joking about it. Its prime assailant, author Robbins, did not always view the CIA-drug connection as "half-baked. . .conspiracy theory." His 1979 edition of Air America," heavily reliant on McCoy's work, contained scores of assertions of the sort of CIA-drug involvement that the film portrays. But such charges vanished without explanation from the 1988 edition in the interim. Robbins had embarked on a history of one particular group of pilots involved in the secret war, known as the Ravens. These pilots, loaned from the Air Force to the secret war, were understandably eager to insist on the probity of their operations.

Despite its frivolity, the film touches a raw nerve. It injects into mass culture truth on a matter that official America has been lying about for three decades, namely the confluence between U.S. covert operations and criminality, whether in Laos, Afghanistan or Central America.

This column is paid for by Regina Costa. She is a member of No Sweat and on the Board of WIP.

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Jesse Jackson

U.S. Media - International Diplomacy

The crisis around Iraq is center stage in the world. Whether or not the feared hot war of bombs, bullets and chemicals breaks out, it will in large measure be determined by another war -- the war of information. Information and analysis in the United States will greatly influence the choice of negotiation or confrontation, life or death.

The United States and allied forces are against one "evil" man, President Saddam Hussein; one problem, the invasion of Kuwait; one interest, oil.

As an American reflecting on my visit to Iraq and Kuwait, I am convinced that the one bridge between that world and this which could serve as a conduit for mutual survival -- the American press -- has failed to provide the American public with the historical context out of which intelligent conclusions and judgments can be made.

In this age of sound bites, photo opportunities and 30-second clips, a real world crisis is being played as a Hollywood melodrama. The United States and allied forces are against one "evil" man, President Saddam Hussein; one problem, the invasion of Kuwait; one interest, oil.

This cinematic "made for TV" analysis is gripping but dangerous. As I stood in the lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel, across the street from the U. S. embassy, I watched Iraqi soldiers, business people, civil servants and others gathered around television sets viewing and studying events as they unfolded live on Cable News Network television.

This is a totally new phenomenon -- international diplomacy by live television. When President Bush conducts a press conference in Kennebunkport, carried live by CNN, it is beaned straight into Kuwait and into the government palace in Iraq to President Saddam Hussein.

I watched as the Iraqis watched President Bush fish on his boat, discuss his skepticism about any negotiated solution, and demand surrender as a pre-condition for talks. Then the TV showed American soldiers land in Saudi Arabia and perform military exercises in the sand.

These statements and positions, intended to excite Americans with a sense of will, were inciting fear and preparation for war in Iraq.

A U.S. response to aggression was in order until stability could emerge out of chaos. Now the United States has responded. International sanctions are in effect. Now Iraq is faced with a worldwide embargo. Now it is time to seek a peaceful resolution that restores Kuwaiti sovereignty and provides security for Saudi Arabia.

(Continued, next page.)

Will it succeed?

The Americans with Disabilities Act

by Mary McKnew

Fifteen years ago, the dean of students of my college informed me that, rather than continuing the unrealistic expectation that I could come back and complete my bachelor's degree, I should resign myself to living out my life in a nursing home. The previous year, I had been injured in a car accident and now use a wheelchair for mobility.

The Dean's words were not prophetic, I transferred to another college and completed my degree. I haven't spent one night in a nursing home so far.

But this example of discrimination occurred many years ago and this is a new day. On July 26, 1990, President Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law. The ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities by the private sector and state and local governments in employment practices, public accommodations and services.

Compliance deadlines vary for different provisions of the law. Thirty days after the bill is signed, public transit authorities must include wheelchair-life equipment on all orders for new vehicles. After thirty months, barrier-free code requirements apply to new construction. Two years following enactment, the law applies to employers with 25 or more employees. After four years, businesses with fifteen or more employees are affected.

It looks like discrimination against people with disabilities will become a relic of the past. The problem is solved. Not quite, unfortunately. One reason for my pessimism is that my college-shopping experience occurred two years after passage of another important law for people with disabilities, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Rehab Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap by entities that receive federal financial assistance, which includes the vast majority of colleges and universities. Although already prohibited under the Rehab Act, the treatment I experienced from my college was not unusual. Okay, but that was a long time ago, wasn't it? We've come a long since then haven't we?

Although already prohibited under the Rehab Act, the treatment I experienced from my college was not unusual. Okay, but that was a long time ago, wasn't it? We've come a long since then haven't we?

Let's look around. During the mid-seventies, Washington State passed strong legislation addressing both barrier-free architectural standards and nondiscrimination in public accommodations. However, local code compliance staff appear to have overlooked (or looked the other way) during construction of the new Coupeville Inn (on Whidbey Island), where I stayed last month. One more new facility that does not meet the state's barrier-free standards and cannot be used by people with disabilities.

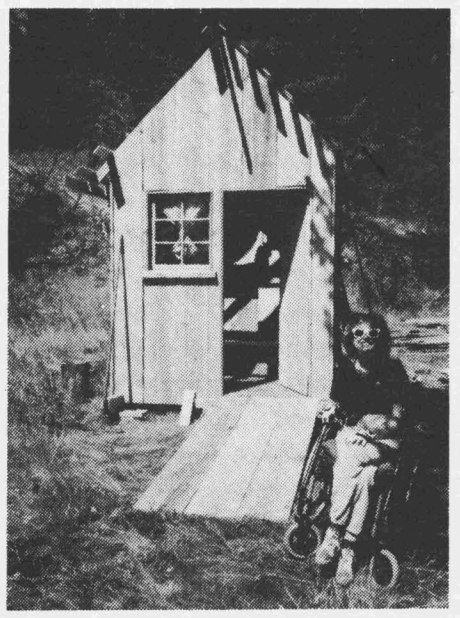
Surely, our progressive community is different? Unfortunately, not. In discussions with several Olympia residents with disabilities, there were mentioned several public facilities with spotty records on access. Check to see if your favorite hang out is among the following representative examples.

* An elevator was added to the much-celebrated Performing Arts Center only after local disabled people protested. Even with this improvement, the Center has no removable seats (to allow someone in a wheelchair an unobstructed view and to sit with her friends) on the balcony level.

* Gaining access to the state library reminds me of playing miniature golf. Wheelchair users determined to enter face the hazards of traveling through several parking lots around to the back of the building. They then enter through the mailroom (with its usual clutter that may drift out into the path of travel), and squeeze past an open stairwell before reaching the safety of the research desk.

. . . the antique market at Carnegie's has chosen to lock its wheelchair-accessible entrance (using it as a storage area) . . .

* On the other hand, the new "Detroits" is fully accessible to someone in a wheelchair, if you want to sit off by yourself and not for people with disabilities. Intercity Transit offers 100% access on its fixed-route bus service (all buses are lift-equipped). However, its paratransit (door-to-door service) operates on an abbreviated schedule and service area. In addition, the passenger's trip purpose is a factor in determining if he will be served at all; a medical visit may be considered a higher priority and bump someone who needs to go shopping. All of this might seem justified if the service is swamped with requests. So far, however, Intercity staff have been unable (or unwilling) to release information on how many people request paratransit service that are not served.



The first accessible out-house in Okanagan County.

But in all of these examples access must be provided by modifying an existing structure or making sure a new facility is constructed to be barrier-free. In contrast, the antique market at Carnegie's has chosen to lock its wheelchair-accessible entrance (using it as a storage area) and send would-be customers up (and then down again) twenty or so steps to enter. It's hard to believe that this was inadvertent.

Many business owners and local agencies do comply with access laws. A few even go beyond legal requirements. The Olympia Co-op, in a rather dated facility, recently renovated its bathroom to provide wheelchair access. The City of Olympia's capital budget includes funds to retrofit forty or so curbs each year to facilitate travel by wheelchair users.

For disabled people, the Americans with Disabilities Act signals a new era of social justice. Let's make sure this new era is different than the others.

(Jackson, continued.)

No peaceful solution can take place without talks, and for any talks to succeed, the historical context for the dispute must be understood. Bilateral tension between Kuwait and Iraq over land, oil and boundary lines has existed since the countries were carved up by British colonizers after World War I.

President Saddam Hussein has both detractors and admirers in the Arab world. There is growing tension between the very wealthy Arab elites and the very poor. Saddm Hussein is perceived as championing the cause of the "have not" majority. He is seen as one who has stood up to the United States, which is widely viewed as ignoring the misery of the masses and selectively enforcing U.N. resolutions.

When he speaks of a Marshall Plan for the Arab poor, financed by the wealthiest countries, it has the same ring of welcome that the Marshall Plan had for Europe after World War II. When he speaks of U.N. resolutions being applied consistently, he speaks even for those who stood against his invasion of Kuwait.

When I met with Saddam Hussein, it was evident to me that he believed that the only reason that he has not been bombed is the presence in Iraq of U.S. citizens. His holding hem represents his fear. His releasing them to several countries at the same time is his way of sending signals to communicate. The glimmer of hope in this crisis is that the will to communicate and search for a political solution will come with the same fervor demonstrated in the push for the economic embargo and the military build-up.

A negotiated solution in this situation will be difficult. Aggression cannot be rewarded. yet historical enmities and injustices can't be ignored. It is vital that the Administration lend its full support to mediation efforts by the United Nations and by Arab leaders. It is imperative that the news media acquaint the American public with the context of the dispute, not simply the drama of the desert. Properly educated, we may be able to see out way to an alternative to war. Surely the attempt must be made. We must not, through ignorance and intransigence, make talks and real communications impossible. If we do so, we will make war inevitable.

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More Exxon Stock?

Maximizing Returns

The following is taken from a letter by the Executive Director of the Washington State Investment Broad, David W. Weig. He is explaining to a fellow Washingtonian why the Board increased the number of shares in Exxon.

The State Investment Board is responsible for the investment of public employees' pension contributions. These employee contributions and the employers' matching contributions are not tax receipts, but are the employees' assets held in trust for payment of retirement benefits. The structure and laws guiding the Board's investments are similar to those guiding corporate pension fund investments regulated by the U.S. Department of Labor; namely, to maximize return at a prudent level of risk.

The Board employs investment counselors to manage pools of assets. One of the stock managers under contract to the Board purchased 100,000 shares of Exxon stock during the past year. The decision to purchase Exxon stock was not made by the Board, but by the investment counselor. For the Board to override the expert counselor's decision would potentially make the Board liable for any loss caused by this decision to override. This stock was not purchased from the company, but on the open market from an institutional seller of these shares. Exxon has issued a total of 1.25 billion shares with over 750,000 shares of Exxon traded every day on the New York Stock Exchange. The purchase of Exxon stock did not involve the company in any way.

Exxon would have no way of knowing how much stock the Board held unless disclosed by the Board. Stocks are held by institutional investors in nominee names at a relatively small number of custodian banks. The Board sends no messages to corporations, other states or any interest groups with respect to the purchase or sale of any stock.

The Board is concerned about maximizing the value of its Exxon holdings and, accordingly, is concerned about the adequacy of the Exxon management plan to protect the environment within which it operates. The Board decided to send a letter to the Chairman of Exxon in which the Board disclosed its ownership of Exxon stock and has requested that Exxon conduct an independent environmental audit of its operations and facilities, including its existing management plan to prevent oil spills.

Exxon is one of the largest companies in the world and has a vast amount of resources. The company will continue to operate its facilities and produce and sell products. The Board should not abandon its stock holdings, which are expected to increase in value, as the Board is legally obligated to maximize the profits from its holdings of Exxon shares. The Board is attempting to convince the company that it can improve its environmental practices. This approach would help reform the management of the company, improve their environmental record, reduce charges against corporate earnings caused by their environmental accidents, improve earnings, and improve the value of the stock; thus, providing public employees with appreciating assets that pay their retirement benefits.

Dear Exxon,

Mr. Lawrence G. Rawl, Chairman of the Board
Exxon Corporation
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020-1198

April 9, 1990

Dear Mr. Rawl:

The Washington State Investment Board actively manages 164,600 shares of Exxon stock; an additional 925,000 shares of Exxon stock are in the Board's portfolio as part of a separately managed commingled index fund.

Over the past year, several oil spills have imposed an extraordinary financial burden on Exxon shareholders; more than $1 billion has been charged against 1989 earnings alone. Without adequate improvements in the Exxon management plan to reduce the likelihood of future oil spills, the value of our holdings could be jeopardized.

Protecting our investment for the plan's beneficiaries is the major reason for making improvements at Exxon. The protection of our environment is also important to our beneficiaries, and to the citizens of Washington State. Exxon tankers frequently cross the waters of Puget Sound; an oil spill in this area would be economically and environmentally devastating.

Accordingly, we request that the Exxon Corporation consider commissioning an independent environmental audit of its operations and facilities, including its existing management plan to prevent oil spills. We propose that the auditors be selected by the Audit Committee or the Public Issues Committee of the Board, in conjunction with representatives from major stockholders. In addition, we request that the report be completed no later than the next Exxon annual meeting.

An independent audit will assure stockholders of a thorough review, and would be an invaluable source of information to you. It could assure the validity of your existing plan or serve as a guide for future improvements.

We hope that we can work together with the management of Exxon on this issue.

Sincerely,
Joseph A. Dear, Chairman
WSIB

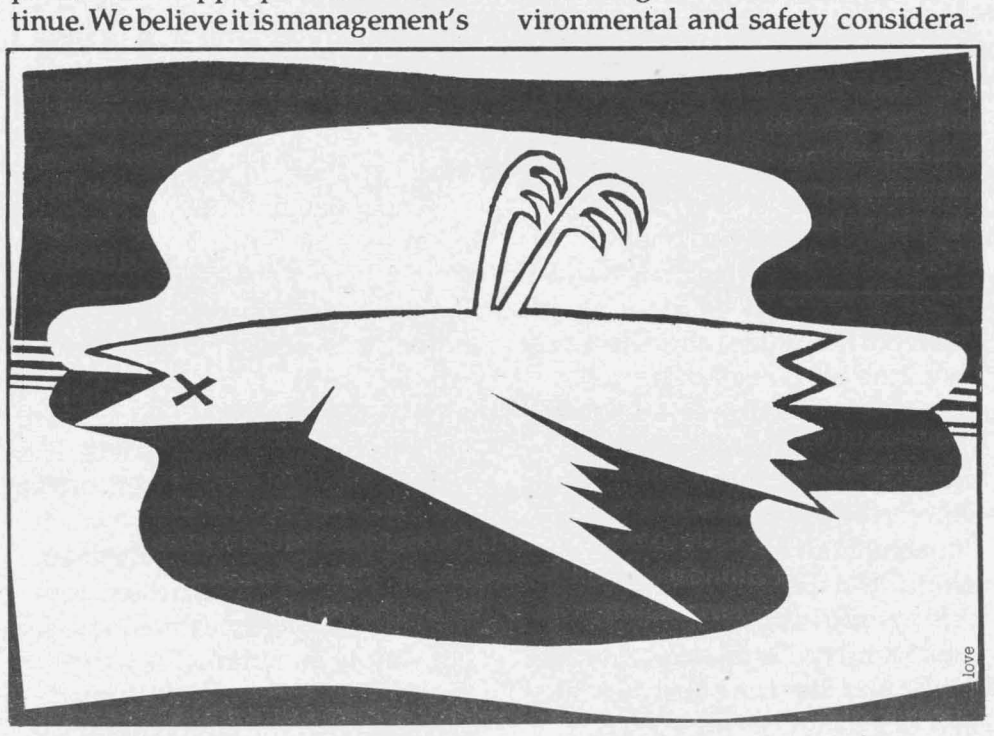
To the Washington State Investment Board

Love, Exxon

Mr. Dear:

I reviewed last week with Exxon's Board of Directors the concerns you raised in your letter dated April 9, 1990. I am pleased to be able to write you about some of the steps Exxon has taken to reinforce its commitment to environmental protection.

Environmental protection and safe operations have long been high priority in Exxon. We have committed an average of $1 billion per year to environmental protection since 1980. All of our worldwide affiliates have intensified their Operational Excellence Programs. Such Programs begin with safe design practices which are continuously monitored through construction and start-up. Their operations are subjected to continuing local site reviews through safe operations committees, local inspection teams and training of personnel. These efforts are augmented by the use of company experts from other locations and, where appropriate, outside experts. These environmental reviews have and will continue to receive high priority from Exxon management. They will be conducted in the future and it is expected that the use of outside experts, where appropriate, will continue. We believe it is management's responsibility to establish the frequency of these environmental reviews as well as the composition of the review teams as appropriate for the particular circumstances at each facility.



Exxon has established a public Issues Committee of the Board enhancing the Board's focus on environmental and safety considerations. The Board elected a Director of the Corporation with a back ground in marine environmental science, and we established an Environment and Safety Department headed by an experienced, senior-level executive reporting to the President of the Corporation.

Exxon worked actively with other companies in the oil and gas industry to develop the American Petroleum Institute (API) Environmental guiding Principles earlier this year. We believe these Principles, designed expressly for the petroleum industry, are appropriate for Exxon and we endorse them wholeheartedly. A copy of the API Principles is enclosed for your information. Similarly, in the chemical industry, Exxon Chemical Company has taken a leadership role in the development of the Chemical Manufacturers Association's Responsible Care Program. Information about that program is also enclosed.

As noted in the proxy materials sent to shareholders this year, Exxon has committed to prepare a report on its past and continuing efforts in environmental protection, health and safety. Following completion of that report, we plan to invite a broad spectrum of our institutional shareholders to meet with us to learn more about the company's activities in those areas as well [sic] other steps we are taking to continue to provide attractive financial returns to our shareholders. I hope that you will be able to join us. When are [sic] plans firm we will be in touch again.

Sincerely,

L. Rawl, Chairman of the Board
Exxon Corporation

Washington State Investment Board Member

Dan Grimm Wrote Back, Evelyn

Evelyn Montague wrote to Mr. Grimm, our State Treasurer, a letter in regards to the Washington State Investment Board's additional purchases of Exxon stock. The letter was printed in the September issue of Works In Progress.

Dear Evelyn:

Thank you for the most recent letter you wrote last week. I'm sorry I've taken so long to get back to you, and I want you to know I appreciate the interest you've shown in the State Investment Board and the time you've taken to attend our meetings.

I'm sure the meetings seem stiff and stilted to you, but believe me, they are freewheeling discussions compared to what they were just a couple years ago. You mentioned in your letter that members seem apologetic for asking questions; well, at least now they're asking questions. The board may have a long way to go, but we are making progress. I do hope you'll continue to come to meetings. It's the only way you'll have to become informed and effective in advocating change.

You should be getting written notices of SIB meetings. The next one is set for some time in November , so if you don't get a notice by November 1, please let me know. And when you come to SIB meetings, be assertive. If you don't have something, ask for it. Raise your hand. Make someone tell you "no". I doubt anyone will.

Please be assured that I do not resent your presence at SIB meetings, nor do you make me uncomfortable. After twelve years as a legislator I put a premium on public participation in decision making and accountability for public officials.

One way to improve your effectiveness with the SIB is to gain support from, and participation of, public employee groups. Each group already has a representative on the board, but I intend to make personal contact with as many of the affected stakeholders as possible. It's their money; they should know what is being done with it and have an opportunity to participate. There's no reason why you can't have access to them as well.

Before I respond to the Exxon issue, I should point out that Dave Weig is correct when he says we are in debt. In fact, we're in debt nearly $5 billion, the result of insufficient legislative funding over the past 20 years. We'd be in debt even more if it weren't for the very high rates of return we've earned from our aggressively managed portfolio.

My second point is a question. In your most recent letter you mentioned that no one showed much response to George Northcroft's comments on social investing. I don't remember what he said and would appreciate it if you would let me know.

Regarding the letter you wrote some time ago to protest the State Investment Board's purchase of additional Exxon stock, several points should be made:

1. I agree with you that the oil spill was a tragedy, and the actions of the Exxon management made it even worse;

2. Exxon management has cost its shareholders, including the beneficiaries of the State Investment Board, millions of dollars in lost earnings due to poor business decisions following the Exxon Valdez spill;

3. The State Investment Board has an opportunity and an obligation to protect its investment by taking action to impose improved management practices.

Accordingly, I submitted a proposal to the State Investment Board in April of this year in the form of a letter criticizing Exxon management and calling for an independent environmental audit of all its practices in order to prevent future oil spills. The letter was sent to Exxon with the unanimous endorsement of the SIB (a copy is enclosed.)

Unfortunately, but predictably, we received a reply telling us to get lost. Given the attitude of the managers at Exxon, I am looking into the possibility of submitting a shareholders' resolution at the next annual meeting of Exxon stockholders calling for an independent environmental audit.

If I do, I will be seeking support for the resolution from other public pension funds throughout the nation, as well as from interested individuals and groups here in Washington.

At the state level, I am looking into the possibility of proposing legislation that would require an independent environmental audit by all oil companies as a condition of transporting oil on Washington waters.

I will keep you informed of my efforts and hope we can cooperate to protect both our state's financial investment and our state's environment.

In response to your question about why the SIB made an additional investment in Exxon following the Exxon Valdez spill, the answer is that the SIB assigns to a select number of investment managers the authority to make decisions to buy or sell stocks. Although we have the right to veto any of their decisions, we traditionally limit our involvement to hiring and firing managers -- and evaluating their overall performance. Their profession is highly competitive and readily quantifiable. We cannot evaluate their overall performance very easily if we overrule their decisions.

In essence, the manager who bought the additional Exxon stock is asserting it will earn us more money with less risk than some other investment -- and the manager may well be right, even with Exxon's poor management and the costs associated with the Exxon Valdez spill. I'm enclosing a copy of a letter written by Dave Weig that conveys the same message.

I firmly believe a strong commitment to a a clean environment will be in the best financial interests of corporations that deal in the production, storage, refinement, transportation, and sale of pollutants. As an investor committed to the long term welfare and profitability of American corporations, the SIB has an opportunity and responsibility to take the lead in convincing other stockholders and corporate managers to share that commitment.

Again, I apologize for taking so long to reply to your first letter, and hope you'll let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Grimm,
Washington State Treasurer

One way to improve your effectiveness with the SIB is to gain support from, and participation of, public employee groups . . . It's their money; they should know what is being done with it and have an opportunity to participate.

Resolution

The WFSE, Local 443 is currently considering the following resolution. If you are a member, please attend the October 16th meeting and support affecting change in the way state retirement funds are invested..

Whereas, the investment strategy of the Washington State Investment Board applies the "prudent man rule" narrowly such that short term gain is the only concern and there is continual investment in companies who engage in practices destructive to the environment, other cultures, and labor and who roam the world to find the cheapest work force and the most exploitable resources.

Whereas, the Washington State Investment Board representatives are appointed and have no reason to consult with constituents, those who contribute part of their wages through payroll deductions to the pensions they manage.

Whereas, a reasonable application of the "prudent man rule" would hold a long term view, knowing that investment in corporations which protect the environment, respect other cultures, and uplift the work force are a better investment and yield higher returns overall,

investment strategies, such as those promoted by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility and the Calvert Social Investment Fund, which promoted safeguarding the environment, appreciation for other cultures, and promotion of collective bargaining, have been shown to have respectable yield, sometimes even exceeding less "progressively" minded funds, and

other state investment boards have adopted strategies of promoting stockholder resolutions which bind corporations to adopt progressive management strategies, such as the Valdez Principles and withdrawal from South Africa.

Whereas, elected members of the Washington State Investment Board could be expected to be responsive to their constituents.

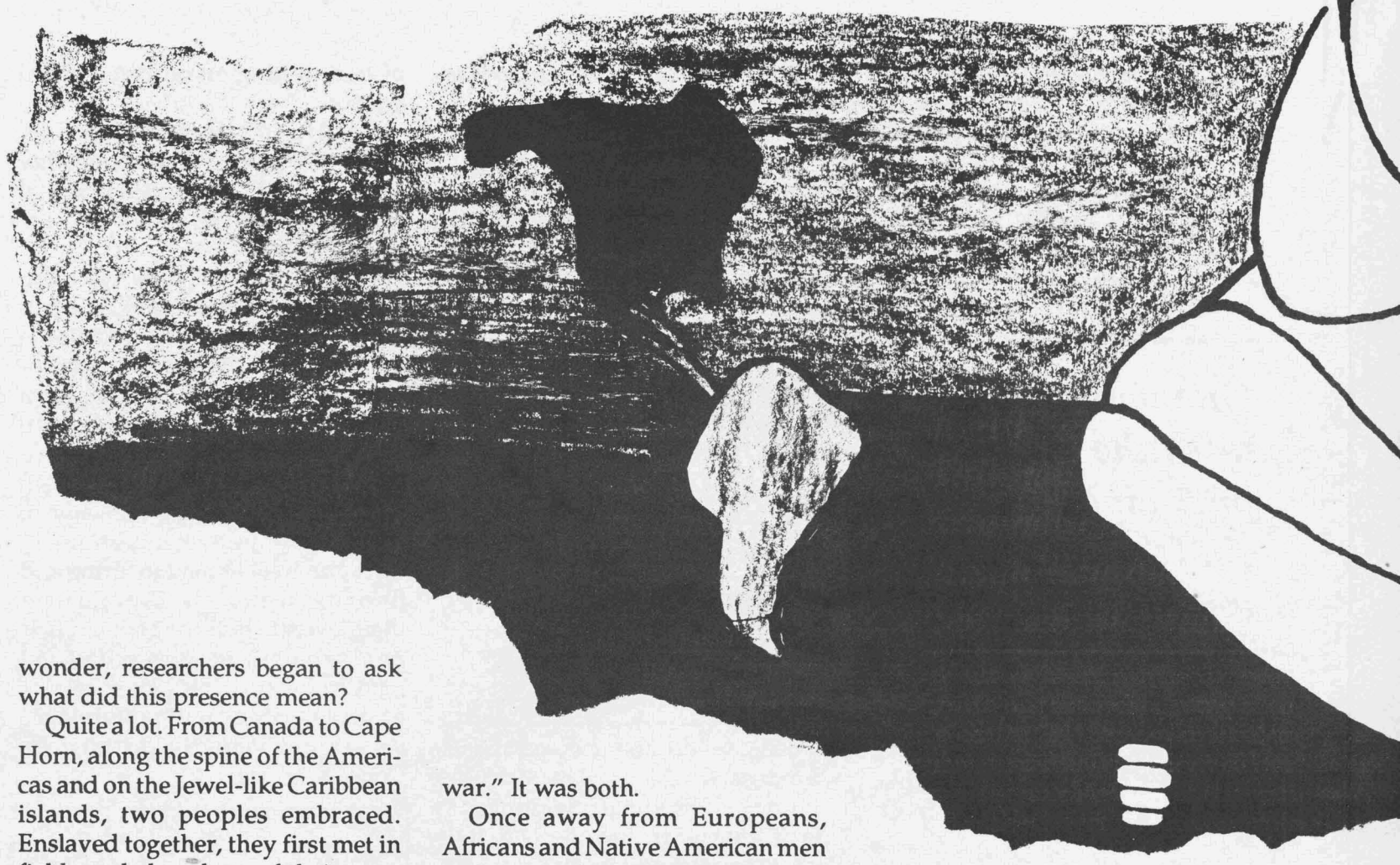
Be it resolved, that the Washington Federation of State Employees,

1. seek the election of the representative for state employee pension funds on the Washington State Investment Board,

2. empower its Locals to establish oversight committees to oversee the investment strategies and the hiring of investment counselors by the Washington State Investment Board, and

3. actively promote investment in corporations which demonstrate environmental conscientiousness, appreciation of other cultures, and respect for the rights of working people everywhere.

The First Rainbow Coalition



by William Loren Katz

During the misty dawn of the first European landings in the Americas Africans and Native Americans hammered out an alliance in the woods that, while little known today, changed the New World.

For Europeans these often properous and peaceful bi-racial settlements were considered, in the words of a French historian, the "gangrene of colonial society." For two centuries European conquerors treated them as knife pressed against the thin shield of their rule. As we shall see, they had a point.

In 1920 the father of modern African American history, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, wrote "One of the longest unwritten chapters in the history of the United States is that treating of the relations of the Negroes and the Indians." He believed that slaves "found among the Indians one of their means of escape." Later that decade Columbia University anthropologist Melsin J. Hershkovits--known for his discovery of African survivals in American life-- conducted extensive research in New York, West Virginia and Washington that determined that a fourth to a third of African Americans have Indian ancestors.

wonder, researchers began to ask what did this presence mean?

Quite a lot. From Canada to Cape Horn, along the spine of the Americas and on the Jewel-like Caribbean islands, two peoples embraced. Enslaved together, they first met in fields and slave huts of their masters. Historian C. Vann Woodward has said of recent evidence: "If black-red interbreeding was anywhere as extensive as suggested by testimony of exslaves, then the monoracial concept of slavery in America requires revision."

Enslaved together, they first met in fields and slave huts of their masters . . . "If black-red interbreeding was anywhere as extensive as suggested by testimony of exslaves, then the monoracial concept of slavery in America requires revision."

Though entire libraries are devoted to studies of the relationship between Africans and Europeans or between Native Americans and Europeans, this third part of the American triangle is just beginning to face investigation. Given the vital role of remembrance for people of color, this piece has been too long neglected. For whites the very notion of Black Indians has most shaking their heads in disbelief or smiling at what appears to be a joke, an unlikely play on words. No one remembers any such person in a school text, western novel or movie.

None ever appeared. However, from Frederick Douglas, Martin Luther King Jr. and Langston Hughes to Alice Walker, Jesse Jackson and Alex Haley--most African American family trees have Indian branches. Haley's successful tracking of Kunta Kinte gave a subdued hunt for ancestors a glacial shove as people pursued African connections. But soon the stubborn will and searching eye of genealogical detectives began to uncover Indian roots. First as a recurring distraction then as a source of

Anthropologist Richard Price described the alliance's first step: "The Indians escaped first and then, since they knew the forest, they came back and liberated the Africans. Price's study of the Saramaka people of Suriname in the 1680s describes an American tradition as old and as meaningful as Thanksgiving.

Native Americans were not weighted down by prejudices and so opened their villages as freedom sanctuaries to those fleeing bondage. Even where the breathless runaways were not known by their host, they often found not only a home but an accepting Indian adoption system.

In Florida the alliance reached its greatest flowering on U.S. soil. Africans, who arrived on the peninsula first, taught Seminoles rice cultivation methods learned in Sierra Leone and Senegambia. The two peoples united to fight the United States Army, Navy and Marines for 42 years, at times tying up half of the Army. "This, you may be assured," Said U.S. General Jesup in 1837, "is a Negro, not an Indian war." It was both.

Once away from Europeans, Africans and Native American men and women found they had more in common than a foe wielding muskets and whips. For both races the spiritual and environmental merged, and common activities such as rising in the morning, hunting and curing illness were imbued with religious significance. Mountains and hills represented spirits and divinities; people, animals and plants carried life's messages; religion was not reserved for Sundays, but a matter of daily reflection.

Africans and Indians lived harmoniously with nature, cherished kinship and emphasized the sacred purity of rituals. The two dark peoples accepted economies that stressed cooperative subsistence agriculture, filtered out harm to the environment and rejected pursuit of worldly treasures. Among both cultures, kinship not ownership shaped economic and judicial decisions, marital customs and village life. Individual roles flowed from transcendent community duties and welfare.

Government ruled not by obtuse Angle-Saxon legalities, but by an overarching "friendly compact."

The two peoples united to fight the United States . . . for 42 years, at times tying up half of the Army. "This, you may be assured," Said U.S. General Jesup in 1837, "is a Negro, not an Indian war." It was both.

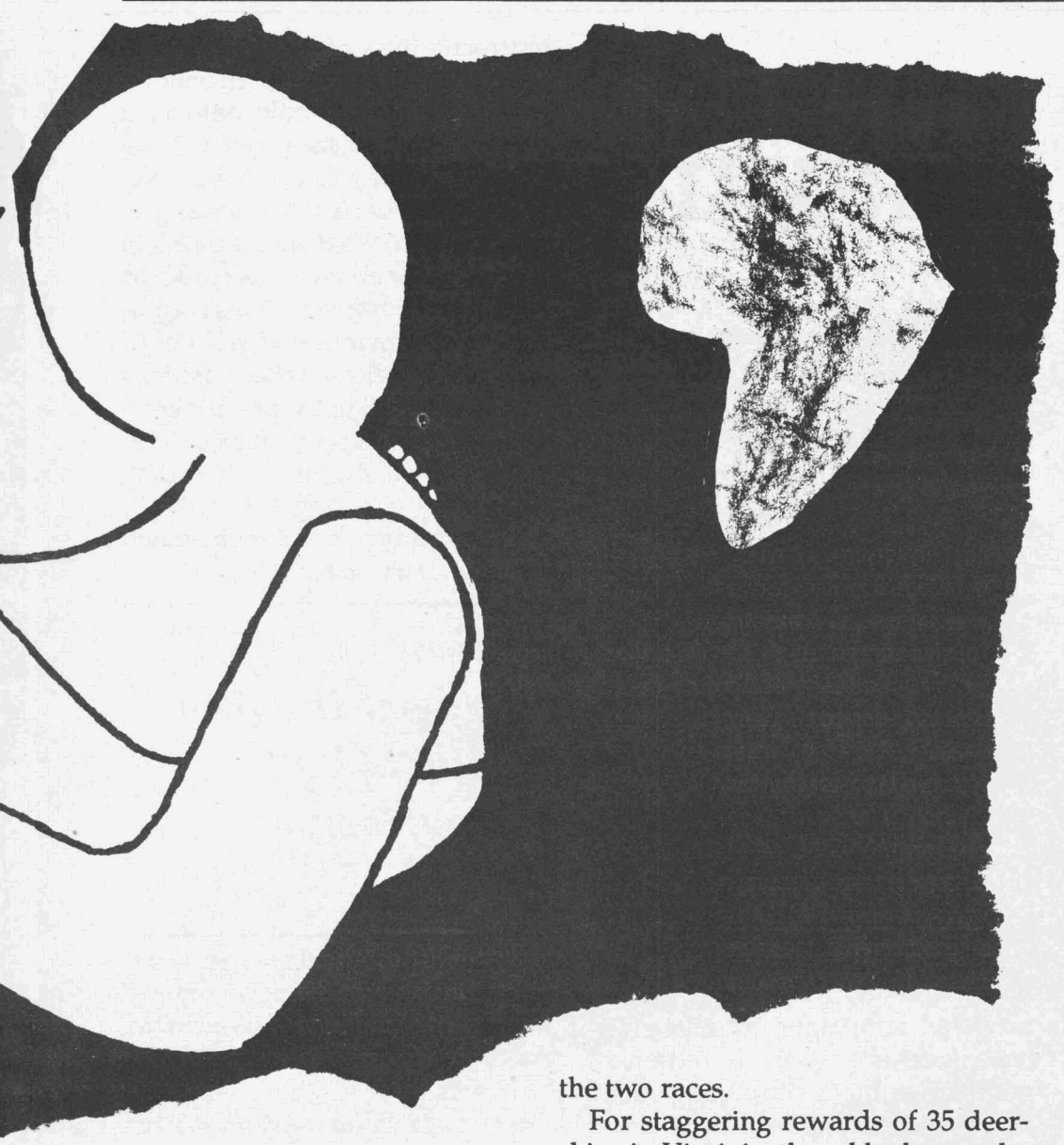
Maroons contrasted with Europeans who slashed the narrow ribbon of peace to pursue individual wealth and regretted nothing but defeat.

The first documentation of the alliance came in 1502 when King Ferdinand heard from his New World Viceroy, Nicolas de Ovando of Hispaniola that Africans "fled among the Indians and taught them bad customs and never could be captured." Ovando was describing more than a problem with untrustworthy servants or the difficulties of retrieving runaways in the rainforest.

Much evidence suggests the earliest slave revolts in the New World united Native Americans and Africans and received outside Indian support. In 1527 Spanish Viceroy Mendoza reported rebellious "blacks had chosen a king, and ...the Indians were with them." Years later Viceroy Enriquez warned "the time is coming when these [African] people will have become masters of the Indians, inasmuch as they were born among them and their maidens, and are men who dare to die as well as any Spaniard."

Decades, even centuries before the Declaration of Independence sanctioned revolution against unjust authority, this alliance battled against European domination and for liberty. Before 1700 most maroon leaders were--like their followers--African-born, but after that date leadership swung to Black Indians experienced at fighting, dealing and negotiating with Europeans. Maroon life combined elements of African, Native American and European cultures, but more research needs to be done on this.

The Maroon freedom-fighters



sent European officers in resplendent uniforms and commanding huge armies home to early retirements. "Their self-respect grows because of the fear whites have of them," a white Brazilian wrote to King Joao of Portugal, in 1719. Maroon songs resonated with prideful defiance:

"Black man rejoice, White man won't come here.

And if he does, the Devil will take him off."

The Republic of Palmares lasted almost the entire 17th century in northeastern Brazil. It hurled back repeated Dutch and Portuguese military expeditions sent to crush it.

As they planned a common defense, built sturdy agricultural and trading enclaves, women played a crucial role in maroon life and untold numbers, such as Filippa Maria Aranha, became leaders. In Brazil, Aranha ruled a thriving Amazona colony and led her troops against Portuguese strongholds until it became clear there was no defeating her. At the bargaining table Aranha won freedom, independence and sovereignty for her people. Colonial powers, in a clockwork of legal and military reflexes, sought to eradicate Black Indian contacts and pit Red against Black. "Division of the races is an indispensable element" said a Spaniard. By 1523 Hernando Cortez tried to enforce a Royal Order that segregated Africans from Indians. "Between the races we cannot dig too deep a gulf" declared a French official. In 1776, Colonel Stephen Bull dispatched his Indian troops to hunt Carolina runaways, saying his policy was to "establish a hatred" between the two races.

For staggering rewards of 35 deerskins in Virginia, three blankets and a musket in the Carolinas, Native Americans were bribed to hunt Africans runaways. Since local nations often refused to do so, mercenary troops were transported from afar. With lures of liberty or riches, every white effort was made to conscript Africans to fight Indians on the frontier.

Neither force, division nor law ended a budding relationship. In Virginia Thomas Jefferson discovered among the Mattaponies "more Negro than Indian blood." Artist George Catlin wrote "Negro and North American Indians, mixed, of equal blood" were "the finest built and most powerful men I have ever yet seen." From Georgia to California, whites confirmed Jefferson's and Catlin's observations. During Pontiac's 1763 uprising a Detroiter complained "the Indians are saving and caressing all the Negroes they take" and warned it could "produce an insurrection." In the U.S., southern slaveholders began legal suits to seize Native American lands, charging "these are not Indians, but Africans."

"Between the races we cannot dig too deep a gulf" declared a French official. In 1776, Colonel Stephen Bull dispatched his Indian troops to hunt Carolina runaways, saying his policy was to "establish a hatred" between the two races.

Through stubborn defiance and grit the first Rainbow Coalition survived. In 1721 the Governor of Virginia had the Five Civilized Nations promise to return all slaves; in 1726 the Governor of New York had the Iroquois Confederacy make the same promise; in 1746 the Hurons promised and the next year the Delawares promised. None returned a slave.

By 1860 African Americans were thoroughly mixed with almost every Atlantic seaboard and inland Indian nation. In Oklahoma alone they comprised 18% of the Five Nations--the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Seminoles and Creeks.

At the famous Congress of Angostura in 1819, liberator Simon Bolivar was elected President of Venezuela and planned a military course that would eventually free the Americas of foreign rule. It is less well known that he took the time to examine the racial history of the Americas: "It is impossible to say to which human family we belong. The larger part of the native population has disappeared, Europeans have mixed with the Indians. We are all born of one mother America, though our fathers had different origins. This dissimilarity is of the greatest significance."

The Americas continue to open fascinating doors of discovery and add missing pages to the story of the discovery. The alliance of people of color in the forests and streams of the New World deserves an honored place in the proud legacy of resistance to tyranny.

Willaim Loren Katz is the author of 24 books including "Black Indians: A Hidden Heritage" (Atheneum Publishers) and a newly revised edition of "The Black West: A Pictorial History" (Open Hand Publishing)

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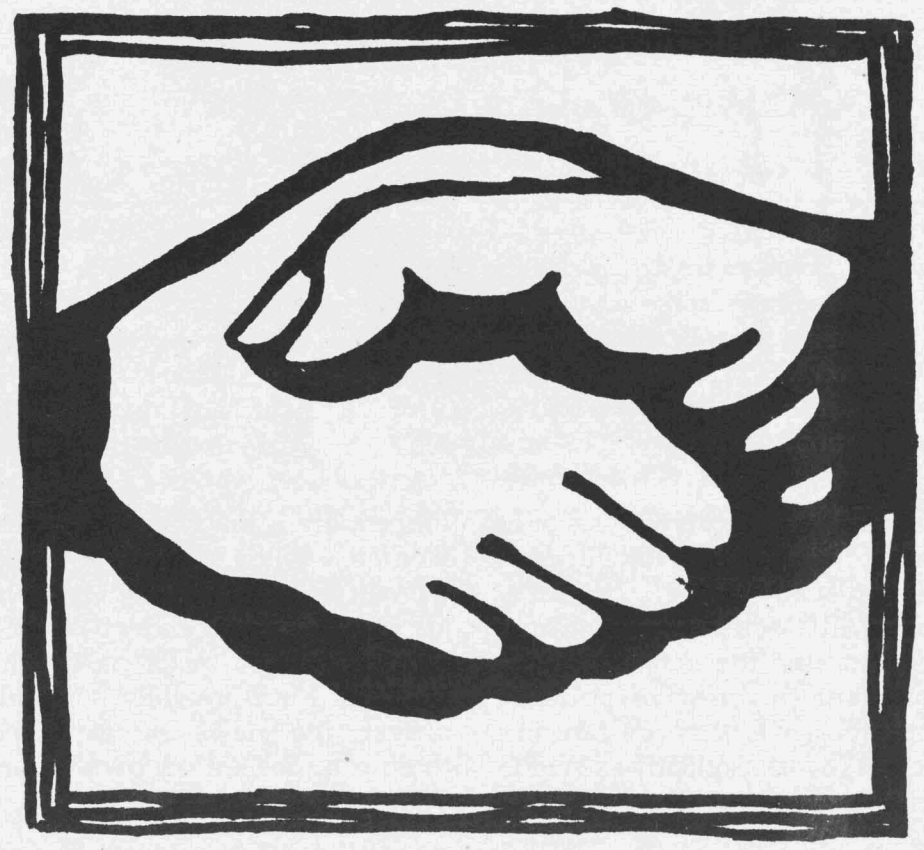
Thanks to all the speakers, performers, volunteers, and participants at the first Labor Day: Community Celebration - Pride and Solidarity.

Over 1,000 people came out to remember our past and reclaim our future.



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See you next year on Labor Day

South Sound Labor Day Committee
New School for Union Orgainizers - Olympia Class

The Washington State Rainbow Coalition

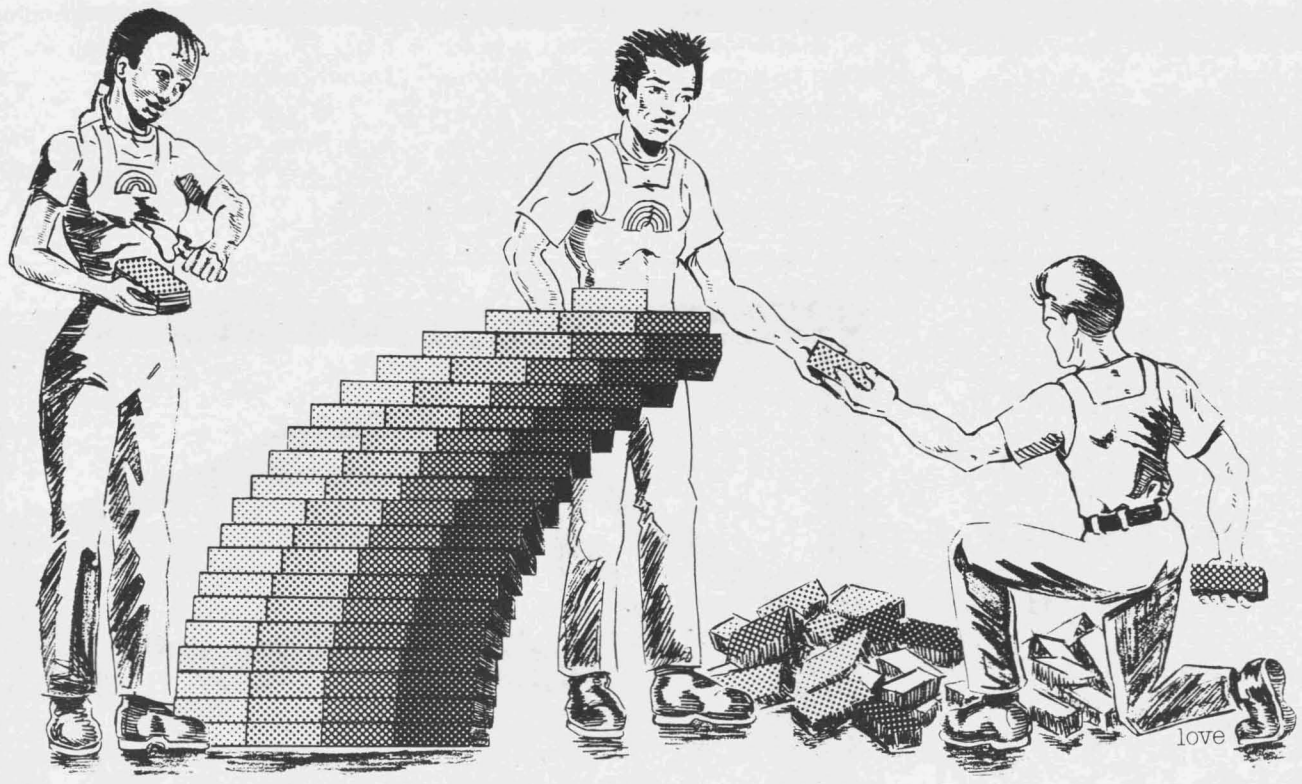
Rebuilding the Vision

By Dave Jette

Last month we examined the recent history of the Washington State Rainbow Coalition (WSRC), including its relationship with the National Rainbow Coalition (NRC) of Jesse Jackson. We now continue by considering what should be the relationship of activists striving to build an independent progressive political movement with the NRC; and how appropriate an "inside/outside" strategy toward the Democratic Party is for building such a movement. Finally, in this month's column, we shall sketch how it may yet be possible to revitalize the WSRC organizationally. First, however, we need to make a substantial correction to last month's column.

A Correction

It has been pointed out to me that last month's column omitted mention of the ongoing work of WSRC activists, and I should correct the impression I gave that the WSRC is presently dormant, with statements such as that the 7th Congressional



District local unit "now exists only on paper" or that "the WSRC doesn't really exist any longer". The fact is that WSRC activists, in various places around the state, are doing important progressive political work, moreover they are carrying out this work explicitly as WSRC members, in the name of the WSRC. The 7th CD local unit, for example, has separate task forces concerned with education, drugs, political action, and foreign affairs. Politicians actively seek our endorsement of their election campaigns, especially since we mobilize people to work for them if they qualify for our highest level of endorsement.

I regret leaving out this information in last month's column, for the effect was to give a one-sided view of the present state of the WSRC. Such work is vital to building the WSRC as an organization. It is this side that I concentrated upon last month, and the proof of my expressed concern about the organizational vitality of the WSRC is given in the continued drastic decline of its size (from 1000 to 300 over the past year, and still dropping fast). Thus my conclusion of last month still stands: collectively the formal leadership of the WSRC has failed in its mandate to start organizing "the most powerful, democratic, and progressive political organization in Washington State history".

Another important point that was omitted in last month's column concerns the racial composition of the WSRC leadership. In our white supremacist society, the impetus for fundamental social chage is going to have to come from people of color, and it is to the great credit of the WSRC that people of color play very active roles in its leadership. This is particularly true at the state level: of the seven active officers, the President is a Black man, the two Co-Chairpersons are an Asian-American woman and a Native American woman and the other four officers are a Black man, a Black woman, a White man, and a White woman. (The WSRC leadership is also very good on gender balance.)

I should also make clear that, although I am presently a WSRC officer, the views expressed in these columns are my own rather than those of the WSRC.

Working with Jesse Jackson

As Alexander Cockburn wrote in the July 1990 issue of *Works in Process*, Jesse Jackson "has shown that he is not interested in building a political movement capable of acting in any way independent of his own personal political ambition". This has been only too well demonstrated in Jackson's orchestration of the March 3, 1989 meeting of the NRC Board of Directors, which adopted a completely authoritarian, top-down structure for the NRC and its component chapters. As well, it has been demonstrated in the NRC's refusal to accept the WSRC as a state chapter, in spite of the latter's being a relatively large, grassroots-based organization devoted to advancing Rainbow politics.

It may yet be possible to turn the WSRC around organizationally, to set it again working toward the creation of "a permanent independent progressive political organization . . ."

The "National Rainbow Coalition" is now nothing more than an extended campaign committee for Jesse Jackson. There is certainly nothing wrong in supporting such an organization: Jackson takes progressive positions on many issues, and he is by far the most progressive politician of national stature. The problem lies not with Jesse Jackson, who has the right to pursue his political career through whatever means he can muster, and cannot be faulted for organizing his campaign committee in a top-down fashion. Rather, the problem is with progressives who attach themselves to the Jackson campaign instead of tackling the far more difficult task of building a democratic, grassroots-based progressive political movement.

In Washington State, the WSRC was founded with the explicit goal of building a fully democratic, independent progressive political organization, and its leaders have all individually desired to work toward this goal. However, our connection with the NRC, albeit tenuous, has served as a crutch for not facing up to the real difficulties we have been having even in maintaining the organization - after all, we are, or hope to be, the official representatives of Jesse Jackson in Washington State! Furthermore, we can't expect to hold onto vital grassroots activists when we are too weak to say to the NRC, "No, your authoritarian functioning is antithetical to what we are trying to accomplish, and we refuse to act as your representatives". This contradiction also manifests itself politically when Jackson takes positions which are decidedly not progressive, such as support for the U.S. military invasion of the Mideast; then, there is strong pressure felt not to take any political stand which might embarrass him.

The contradiction between working within an authoritarian organization and building a democratic, grassroots-based political movement was forcefully expressed in a letter from a Rainbow activist circulated at last spring's WSRC leadership retreat:

To hell with the NRC. If it does not want to operate in a manner that the WSRC believes is ethical, then it's just too bad for the NRC. I think it is possible for the NRC to learn that democracy can work. Let them learn. AND no one has to be nasty about it either. If the state keeps running around worrying what unethical others may be thinking, it's going to do nothing but get pooped, and all the members are going to get bored.

Unfortunately, this letter, as well as other position papers raising fundamental questions about what we were doing, was literally trashed at the retreat.

The conclusion, then, concerning the relationship between activists striving to build an independent progressive political movement and Jesse Jackson is: there should be no direct organization link. It would be different if Jackson had followed the hopes of many progressives and led the NRC in building such a movement. But he has made the conscious choice of advancing his own political career instead, and we should accept his decision, support him when doing so advances the progressive movement, and concentrate our energies upon building this movement.

An "inside/outside" strategy?

The question of an "inside/outside" strategy toward the Democratic Party is more complicated. By this terminology is meant working with the Democratic Party for tactical purposes while maintaining a separate organizational identity, with the strategic view of pulling together the progressive activists within the Party and eventually breaking with its conservative wing. This is certainly not the strategy of Jesse Jackson, who fully intends to

(Continued next page.)

(Rainbow, continued.)

build his political career within the Democratic Party, but it is the view of many progressives who have been attracted to Rainbow, including those in the WSRC.

The socialist organization Solidarity has written an excellent pamphlet entitled "Jess Jackson: The Rainbow and the Democratic Party - New Politics or Old?". This 44-page work, written in April 1988 during the height of Jackson's second Presidential campaign, demonstrates the futility of trying to transform the Democratic Party. Its arguments are quite compelling, and it definitely should be read in spite of being somewhat dated by now. It is available for $1.50 (50 cents apiece for bulk orders) from Solidarity, 7012 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48210.

In spite of such arguments against an "inside/outside" strategy, I continue to consider this strategy to be appropriate for progressives active in the WSRC, who realize that the Democratic Party cannot be transformed into a vehicle serving the people's needs. Conditions may well be far less favorable elsewhere for such a strategy, but in Washington State the Democratic Party really is open to influence by progressives and there are many progressive people active within the Party. And the decline of the WSRC has nothing to do with its close connection to the Democratic Party. Of course, many WSRC members expect to be able to transform the Democratic Party, and a necessary common basis of working unity is provided by the stipulation that support for political candidates by the WSRC depends entirely upon their general support of the principles espoused in our political platform, regardless of their party affiliation.

Revitalization of the WSRC

It may yet be possible to turn the WSRC around organizationally, to set it again working toward the creation of "a permanent independent progressive political organization operating throughout the State of Washington". This possibility exists because of its excellent progressive politics, concerning which there is no dispute within the organization, and because its present leadership core really does desire to fulfill the mandate of the founding convention. Furthermore, as mentioned above, there are quite a few activists doing important progressive political work explicitly as WSRC members. Whether it is practically possible to stop the slide of the WSRC remains to be seen, but we should at least propose some basic conditions for revitalizing it:

1. The WSRC should formally withdraw its application as a state chapter of the National Rainbow Coalition, and stop portraying itself as the NRC's representative in Washington State. We have already discussed why this step is necessary, if the WSRC is going to become a self-sustaining progressive organization. At the same time, the WSRC should seek to relate to the NRC on the basis of equality, and to support Jesse Jackson's next Presidential campaign.

2. There should be explicit agreement within the WSRC to support political candidates solely on the basis of their general support for the WSRC political platform, without regard to party affiliation. Within the context of this policy, the WSRC should work to influence the state Democratic Party to the extent that conditions merit such activity.

3. New leadership at all levels of the WSRC will have to emerge, to actively undertake the challenge of building a viable state wide organization. In particular, the successful local Rainbow in Thurston and Yakima Counties should be expected to provide significant leadership in this endeavor. In selecting the future leadership of the WSRC at all levels, it is of especial importance to choose people who consider fully democratic functioning to be an absolute, non-negotiable principle of organization.

4. Publishing a regular state newsletter has to be given the highest priority. It would probably start off with bimonthly publication, but should quickly become monthly.

5. The organizational structure of the WSRC does need some major revamping, in ways which we cannot go into here. We should point out, however, that the WSRC Executive Committee should start meeting monthly and see as its main concern the functioning of the organization, i.e., the "health of the WSRC".

Dave Jette, currently the WSRC Corresponding Secretary and member of NCIPA, is a regular columnist for Works In Progress.

Low-income Housing, PLEASE

by Evelyn Montague

The City of Olympia, Dept. of Community Development staff estimates the vacancy rate for lower cost units is between 0 and 2 per cent, depending on unit size. In 1989 there were over 9,000 recipients on public assistance in Thurston County and 4,500 receiving unemployment benefits. Households with incomes at or below 40 per cent of median income are eligible for Section 8 rental assistance, but the waiting period for assisted housing through the Housing Authority averages in excess of 1 and 1/2 years. The need for affordable decent housing is very great. Thus, Homes First! heartily supports the Rolling Fields project and its potential for meeting the needs of a number of families of low and moderate income.

Homes First! heartily supports the Rolling Fields project and its potential for meeting the needs of a number of families of low and moderate income.

I was a social worker and university faulty member for many years, always aware of the impact of overcrowding and dilapidated housing on health, morale and family stability. I have been a volunteer sponsor through our church and support for some Cambodian families for the past five years in this neighborhood and I can vouch for their living in real slums. It is all they can afford.

I have also fought some battles to preserve the environment and became interested in the Rolling Fields project some 2 and 1/2 years ago. I heard the concerns of the NE Neighborhood Association and recognized their worries about the destruction of the wetlands, only a 50 foot buffer on each side of the wetlands, not enough water storage for stormwater runoff, narrow streets entering the development, etc. But my notes also indicate that at a meeting in April, 1988, Bruce Zook said he would refer a 20 foot high fence around the whole development. A prison-like enclosure to keep the people *in*? He had to know that was an indecent idea, but it told me something about how he expected to feel about the people who will be living there and not just the possible loss of small animals and birds. I continued to attend meetings for a while, but was discouraged to hear many of the very same concerns that we heard at the first meeting, over and over again. But they kept digging further and found additional questions as well. However, I was aware that the architect, engineers, botanists, etc, constantly worked on revisions and modifications in response to the concerns of the neighbors. We saw pictures of this corporation's older low-income developments and they were certainly not eye sores to those neighborhoods.

I read the staff report today. The legitimate concerns of the neighbors apparently have been corrected to the satisfaction of the city planning staff with some stipulations for on-going supervision and approval of some specific designs yet to be made. All of the plans now meet the requirements for a Planned Residential development. I note that greenery and trees are to be maintained at a height of 8 feet.

One of the concerns which the developers could not do anything about was the fact that the Roosevelt school was rebuilt at the same capacity as the old one. I thought that was rather short sighted, also, so I made some inquiries. The size of a new school is determined by the local school district and the local school board. I ascertained that the last monthly report of school enrollment in May, 1990 at Roosevelt was 355 students, and the design capacity is somewhat over 500. So the new school can accommodate an additional 150 students, without the addition of portable classrooms.

Now, after the NE Neighborhood Association and the City Council and staff of the City of Olympia, as well as the Rolling Fields Corporation have spent a great deal of money, time and energy to make this development comply with all the codes, I hope we can get on with the building and provision of 155 new residences for low and moderate income families, so badly needed right here.

Evelyn is a representative of Homes First!, a non-profit organization in Thurston County which is concerned with and working for more affordable decent housing for families of low and moderate income.

We're Not Alone!

Reprinted from the Oakland-Berkeley Rainbow Reporter of August 1990.

by Judith Scherr

On Saturday, August 18 the executive committee met to discuss the future direction of our chapter. We find ourselves a lonely Chapter, fighting for existence in the midst of an organization which once aspired to become a powerful national voice for the disenfranchised, but has shown itself unwilling or unable to do so on a national scale. A aviable national organization has not been built. There has been further demoralization among many members since the "promulgation" of new bylaws, eliminating the bi-annual convention and placing Rainbow decision-making in the hands of a few appointed persons at the top of the organization.

The unanimous feeling of the executive committee is that we want to continue to build the Rainbow if, in fact you, the members, also want to continue and will take responsibility for our Chapter's future. The following are some of the ideas the exec. will bring to the September 29th general membership meeting. Please plan to share your ideas at this time.

* Rebuild ties with other Rainbow chapters.

* Build closer ties with NCIPA (National Coalition for Independent Political Action).

* Participate in the construction of an East Bay Network of progressive groupings of people and organizations.

* Narrow our focus to health care issues.

If we are going to succeed in revitalizing our chapter, we need your input. If you can't be at the meeting on September 29, please jot down your ideas and send them to us at 1720 Oregon, Berkeley, 94703.

Capital gains tax cuts and the price of beer:

Crossfire hurricane for the working class

by Tom Connelly

If the current Bush capital gains tax cut proposal is passed by congress, the rich will reap a tax break as great as 644 times larger than that gained by the poor. This latest version of supply side "trickle down" economic practice demonstrates how the rule of money may continue to metastasize under Republican leadership well into the 1990's.

According to a recent study by the "Citizens for Tax Justice", the Bush White House is seeking to fork over a savings of some $19,599 to the nation's richest families, while the poorest families save roughly $30. (Enough to buy a couple cases of beer and peanuts/chips after the taxes are raised on alcohol.) Like as not the worker will walk home being unable to afford gas.

This proposal means that the ruling class will, once again with impunity, be able to make good on political promises while making it crystal clear to the rest of the public that they will not risk the top joint of its little pinkie to put the nation's economic house in order.

Because most workers enjoy zero capital gains (income from the sale of appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds, and real estate) this tax cut is yet another chapter in the tawdry fairy tale foisted upon America ever since Ronbo rode out of the west and set up camp on the sylvan fields of Pennsylvania Avenue, opened the gate of capitalism unfettered and fell fast asleep in the warmth of the setting sun.

In light of this callous unconcern for the working class, consider further these figures presented in "The Olympian" for September 4, 1990:

1. to keep income stable, workers in 1987 worked 5.9% more hours at hourly wages 3.3% less than 1979.
2. blue collar workers have sustained a 12% decline in wages since 1980, while service workers wages are down 18%.
3. one in four workers earned poverty level wages in 1979; eight years later that figure was 1 in 3.

Thus, the worker, faced with tax proposals blatantly favoring the rich and working more for less, is facing the proverbial "cross fire hurricane" intoned by the Rolling Stones not so long ago. Big business enjoys a boom period while the working class pays proportionally more of its income on beer and gasoline in a drunken ride to the poor house.

In the past decade the rule of money has real gains under its belt and is ready to continue its struggle for all the pie. The richest 5% among us (those with incomes of over $139,035) have seen their incomes grow 18% faster than the poor working class (families with incomes of $28,292) or some 80% of all families in America. (Citizens for Tax Justice)

It is a mistake to imagine that the wages of the middle class, what's left of it, were immune to the virulence of uncontrolled capitalism. The real wages for workers fell 10% during the past decade. This translates into workers on the job 9% additional hours annually (2 weeks and a weekend) to keep up with their counterparts of 1979.

Any worker who thinks life will get better under two terms of a "kinder, gentler" regime, or an arch-conservative successor have their heads screwed on backwards. As long as there is no equality of sacrifice in this country, the general standard of living cannot but continue on its downhill slide of the past decade.

As long as America is ruled by old money bags like George Bush, the posture of labor will be to decide where to position itself correctly in the parade to the nearest poorman's pub.

Tom Connelly, a public school teacher, is new to the Olympia area and a welcome addition to W.I.P.

Herb Legg Joins Up

By copy of this letter I am volunteering.

Volunteering to the U.S. Navy, The U.S. Army, the U.S. Air force and the U.S. Marine Corps.

Volunteering to serve in the Middle East Senior Service (MESS) in the elite corps of those over 60 who want to serve on behalf of Texaco.

Volunteering to kill and maim and be killed and maimed.

Volunteering to take the place of young men who have their lives ahead of them.

Volunteering so it can no longer be said that old men make the wars and the young men fight them.

I ask only one condition to my volunteering: I want to serve on active duty in the Middle East Senior Service in the same company as one or more of the 50 congressmen who are double-dipping by being in the weekend warrior military at the same time as they vote for young men to be killed and maimed.

Yours as a candidate for MESS\ Over 60.

Herbert Hugh Legg Jr.
LCDR USNR Retired (WW II)

Teach In on the Middle East

Wednesday, October 3rd

12 - 2 pm	Afternoon Speakers (Library 1000, Evergreen)
	Representative from the Arab American Anti-Discrimination League "History of Iraq and the Middle East"
	Saba Mahood "U.S. Supported Occupation: The Case of Palestine"
2 - 3:30 pm	Workshops by Afternoon Speakers
5:30 - 7 pm	Mid East Dinner (CAB 110, Evergeen)
7:30 pm	Evening Speakers (St John's Episcopal Church, 20th & Capitol Way, Olympia)
	Representative from the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination League
	Saba Mahood
	Bob Seiber, Viet Nam Veteran- Bread and Roses "Anti-War from Vietnam to the Present"
	Paul Zilsel, International Jewish Peace Union "U.S. - Israeli Role in the Current Gulf Conflict"

Sponsored by the Olympia Anti-Intervention Coalition

UNION CARPENTERS BUILD MORE THAN JUST BUILDINGS!

The Olympia Carpenters Local Union recently reaffirmed its objectives, some of which are:

* To reach out a helping hand to all carpenters in this area.
* To improve the intellectual, economic, and social conditions of all working men and women and their families.
* To improve safety conditions on the job.

LET'S BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY TOGETHER!

Carpenters Local Union #1148
119 1/2 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501 Phone: 754-4038

Worried About the Draft? Want Out of the Military?

More and more men and women who are in the military are finding that they do not want to be there. More and more young men are worried about getting drafted. George Bush's threats of war against Iraq is bringing the issue to a head for many individuals.

Thurston County Draft Counseling Center 491-9093

The laws and regulations already exist for an amazingly fast return to the draft. If Congress were to give Bush induction authority today, draft notices would go out in tomorrow's mail and within two weeks thousands of surprised young men could find themselves in boot camp before they knew what hit them! Before they had a chance to find out what their rights are!

The Thurston County Draft Counseling Center can help. TCDCC can provide information about the draft, counsel individuals who want to stay out or get out of the military, and make presentations to audiences at schools, churches and other groups.

Putting the problem in perspective

Behind the Middle East Crisis Headlines

by Stephen R. Shelton

According to the current estimates, there are about one trillion (1,000,000,000,000) barrels of proven oil reserves in the world. This means that, at current market prices, there are about $25 *trillion* of proven crude reserves available throughout the world, enough to supply the world for 50 years at the current rate of consumption. Historically, proven reserve estimates are consistently understated and through revisions and extensions, as opposed to new discoveries, are greatly increased in size from the original estimates. This means we could actually have a proven world reserve equal to a 100 year supply worth $50 trillion.

According to the most recent figures published by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the cost of finding and developing the average barrel of crude oil in 1990 is about $5 domestically and even less abroad. Since most of the vast oil reserves (e.g. the MIddle East) were found and developed at costs below $1 per barrel, the average cost of discovery and development of all barrels is likely about $2 per barrel. This estimate is supported by the fact that almost all the major oil companies managed to earn substantial profits during the thirty year period when crude oil sold for between $2 and $4 per barrel. When prices doubled in 1974 and doubled again in 1979, the profits for the large oil producers and refiners were correctly described as "obscene."

Dollars add up when you talk in trillions

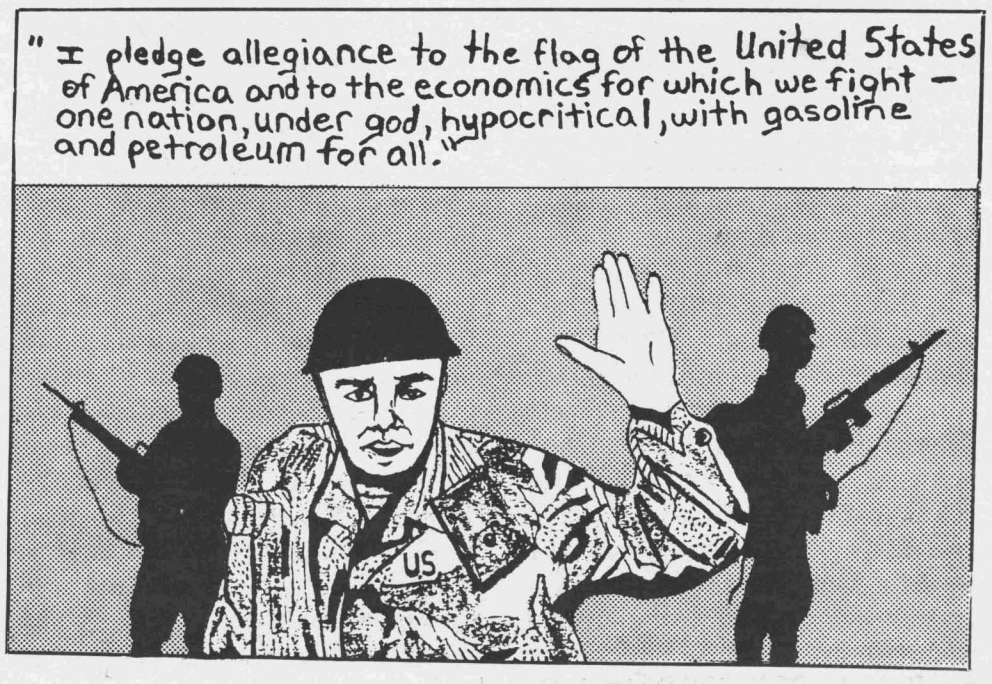
An increase of just $1 per barrel in the price of crude adds $1-2 trillion to the value of this vast oil reserve and over $20 billion to the annual amount paid by consumers to the owners of this oil. Given the high level of consumption, crude oil and refined product pricing has an enormous impact on economies everywhere. Large price moves up and down make and break not just household budgets and businesses, but entire industries, regions and nations. It therefore follows that everyone should pay serious attention to who owns this oil, what they do with the money they derive from its sale, and how they arrive at their pricing decisions.

Given the fact that the U.S. taxpayer and military frequently finds themselves in the position of *insurer* of the nations and companies that produce and sell this valuable asset, we should also examine this issue from that angle as well.

Who really owns the world's oil?

About 2/3 of the world's proven crude oil reserves are in the hands of five Middle Eastern OPEC nations. Of these nations, Saudi Arabia has almost 25% of the world's crude reserves, with Kuwait, Iraq, Iran and Abu Dhabi (aka the Emirates) each have about 10%. By comparison, the other "big" producing nations like Venezuela, Russia, Mexico, the U.S., China and Libya have less reserves *put together* than does Saudi Arabia by itself.

Of this monstrous wealth, by an accident of fate and geography coupled with the arbitrary drawing of political boundaries by the Western powers and oil companies, three sheikdoms with little population hold nearly half of the world's oil reserves. These three countries are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi. Their oil wealth is owned by the ruling *families*, not by the citizens.


"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the economics for which we fight — one nation, under god, hypocritical, with gasoline and petroleum for all."
US

The other two countries, Iran, a theocracy, and Iraq, a military dictatorship, with four times the population of the sheikdoms, are looking for an Islamic version of "economic democracy." They want a more equitable sharing of the wealth so they can raise their standards of living and standing in the community of nations.

The Ayatollah Khomeini attempted to penetrate Saudi Arabia by religious influence. Hussein went into Kuwait by force of arms. Both for the same reasons: to share in their vast oil wealth.

One must understand that most Muslims feel the political boundaries among these nations were drawn under the influence of Western powers more interested in carving up oil interests than solving social or geopolitical problems. Border disputes have existed throughout the Middle East for years.

It also helps to recognize that Iran and Iraq were suffering from the falling oil prices while the sheikdoms protected themselves by expanding their refining capacity and acquiring "downstream" interests in refining and marketing with Texaco and British Petroleum. This insulated them from falling crude prices, as they made up for the decline through refinery and marketing profits. Iraq, on the other hand, was hard pressed to service its huge war debt with falling crude prices.

Refining and marketing profits from oil products used to be almost non-existent. But when almost all the producing nations nationalized their oil industries and the major refiners lost the "well head" profits on crude, they "reorganized" pricing to increase profits downstream in refineries and marketing, where they still had dominance. Refinery markups increased from about $4 per barrel to $10 per barrel and consumers picked up the bill.

America is the only significant oil producing nation on earth that has not nationalized its crude production or taken an equity interest of some kind in its oil industry, even though 80% of the U.S. oil production in from public lands. Here we permit the major oil companies to earn the profits from the oil production, the refining, and even the direct retailing. In fact, we have even permitted England and the Kuwaiti royal family to become the largest stockholders in our biggest domestic oil field: the Alaskan North slope. That is not exactly a move towards U.S. energy independence.

The high cost of insuring other peoples' oil

Our government is looking for help in paying the estimated $25 billion cost of defending Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, In addition, President Bush has suggested we forgive Arabia from paying $7 billion in military aid for assisting and maybe offering Russia billions more. Our lives and our money are on the line because of our current dependence on their oil. Maybe we ought to look seriously at conservation and development of alternate energy forms to reduce that dependence so next time we are not between "Iraq and a hard place."

Let those who profit pay the cost

Has anyone stopped to calculate who is benefiting financially from the current crisis-and by how much? Crude prices have been running about $7 per barrel above pre-crisis prices. That translates to about $12 billion per month in *extra* profits to the oil producers. Saudi Arabia shares in this huge sum, but, more importantly has agreed (great sacrifice) to increase its production by 2,000,000 barrels per day. Saudi Arabia should, with the higher prices and increased production, earn an extra $2.5 billion per month. And, the U.S. taxpayer is footing the bill for protecting the *Saud Family's* 250 billion barrels in proven reserves worth about $7.5 *trillion*: enough wealth to pay off the U.S. national debt two times over and leave a trillion in change.

Shouldn't we demand the Saudi and Kuwaiti royal families pay for all our costs in protecting their personal assets? Isn't it more than enough that our U.S. military (and civilian hostages) have had to put their lives on the line?

America is $3 trillion in debt and facing a likely recession. The Saudi's and Kuwaiti's, on the other hand, have no debt and great future prospects-*if we save them.*

Why should the U.S. taxpayers pay about $60 per month per family in higher energy costs *and* foot a $400 bill for protecting those who are making the extra profits?

Shouldn't we try to take the profit out of tankers running aground and out of crisis profiteering?

We laughed at the sheiks in the 1950's trying to find ways of spending all that "found" money. It is time we take another look at what is happening here. We are putting American lives on the line. We should at least spare our already strained economy. Perhaps the sheiks grandchildren are laughing at us now - all the way to their Swiss banks.

Insurance is a cost of doing business. Let them pay the premium like other businessmen.

If we spend $25 billion of our taxpayers money to protect the U.S.A. from an energy emergency, then let's spend it intelligently: by filling our strategic petroleum reserves, by promoting a serious energy conservation effort, by promoting clean safe alternate sources of energy like solar, wind and hydro power-as well as clean utilization of our 400 year supply of coal, by paying subsidies to high-cost domestic oil producers as we did during WWII, rather than letting all barrels become expensive in order to attract a few extra barrels of production, and by looking out for our *public* interest, rather than the monies interests that control our political apparatus and policy making.

Stephen R. Shelton is director of Auto Trade Organizations of California/ Southern Carlifornia Service Station Association. Mr. Shelton gives his permission to those who would like to reprint this article.

The White Man's Burden, continued . . .

by Ron Jacobs

Not only is the current military deployment in the Persian Gulf a wasteful imperial exercise and potentially dangerous beyond the point of human comprehension, it is also a naked expression of a racist foreign policy. The fact that a disproportionate number of U.S. troops in the desert are non-white is compounded by the western media portrayal of the Arab people as fanatical, even insane, humans intent on taking the world down with them in their fight against the so-called rational western nations. The most obvious question to ask at this point is who's really crazy? The Arab people who wish to protect their land and economic mainstay, or the imperial powers (with the United States at the helm) who seem to be willing to sacrifice their own citizens and thousands of others merely to maintain control of natural resources not even in their own lands?

U.S. policy in the middle east has been primarily anti-Arab in nature for as long as this writer can remember. This, despite the fact that much of our civilization derives from ancient Arab cultural and scientific trends. A prime example of this attitude can be seen in the creation of Israel in the first half of the twentieth century. The European powers, unwilling to allow Jews to remain or return to their places of birth after World War II, sent refugee ships loaded with European Jews to Palestine. In a 20th century version of the colonization of the Americas, the Palestinians were dehumanized and driven from their homes (much like the indigenous tribes in the Americas) to camps and elsewhere throughout the world. The historical reality of the creation of Israel on Palestinian land was perhaps the most cynical manipulation of human desires and lives stemming from the imperialist powers' restructuring of the world order following World War II.

The implicit racism of statements calling the support for the U.S. war moves in the Gulf "unanimous" assumes that the support of the European powers plus a sprinkling of self-serving Arab and other governments is the world.

The implicit racism of statements calling the support for the U.S. war moves in the Gulf "unanimous" assumes that the support of the European powers plus a sprinkling of self-serving Arab and other governments is the world. The fact that dozens of nations are not heard from at all only reinforces the misconception. This assumption began in the era of European colonialism and is responsible for many of today's problems. It is important to remember that the United Nations Security Council is not the General Assembly and is composed of the victors of World War II plus China and two rotating members -- surely not representative of many of the non-aligned nations.

The presence of so many non-white troops in the U.S. army is, of course, directly related to the racist economic policies at home which limit opportunities for viable employment in non-white neighborhoods. Not only do these policies limit opportunities, they also prevent advancement. This situation exists in the armed services, as well. One Colin Powell (reactionary that he is) does not make up for the disproportionate number of dead black men during the Vietnam war. Nor does it compensate for the high percentage of black and other third world people forced to choose between dope-dealing, minimum wage jobs, or the military to survive. Of course, many poor whites are also faced with similar choices but at this point in our history many more people of color have only these choices. This is in large part due to the transfer of livable wage employment opportunities from the inner city to the non-union south and overseas in the last twenty-five or so years. The obvious reasons for the moves were/are threefold: maintain high profits through a decrease in labor costs; slow down the collapse of capitalism through its globalization; and, finally, protect business from the threat of an African-American revolt -- a very real corporate fear in the 1960s and early 1970s.

As a final thought, consider this, the U.S. military moves will eventually starve Iraqis and the newly created refugees in Jordan through the Western enforced food embargo. In addition, the economic ripple caused by the U.S. intervention will increase starvation throughout the third world due in part to the higher energy costs brought on by the U.S. war moves. In the United States, meanwhile, the expenditure of over $7,000 a minute for the war effort is driving those in the streets, barrios, and ghettoes of this country closer to starvation. The world is held hostage for the profits of a few.

Ron Jacobs is a member of Olympia Anti-Intervention Coalition and the Central American Action Committee.

Some Facts About Souter

prepared by Boston NOW

He was appointed New Hampshire Attorney General by Governor Meldrim Thomson, one of the most viciously right-wing politicians in the country, and he was first appointed a judge by then Governor John Sununu, who is anti-choice and pro-nuclear power. Sununu is telling anti-abortion conservatives that Souter will make them very happy.

RACIAL EQUALITY: Souter has publicly described affirmative action as "affirmative discrimination," and has said that the government should not be involved in remedying the effects of historic race discrimination.

THE RIGHT TO STRIKE: Souter was hand-picked by Governor Sununu to hear a request for an injunction against a statewide "sickout" by state workers. At 3:45 a.m., Souter ordered the employees to be back at work for the morning shift or be held in contempt of court.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: One of the few cases in which Souter overturned a criminal conviction was a sexual assault case where he believed that the woman behaved in a "sexually provocative" manner. His decision implies that a woman who doesn't act "properly " is asking to be raped.

GAY AND LESBIAN RIGHTS: Souter gave an advisory opinion to the New Hampshire legislature which said that gay men and lesbians were automatically unfit to be adoptive or foster parents just because of their sexual orientation, no matter how good a parent they might be to a particular child.

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE: A New Hampshire Attorney General, Souter defended Governor Thomson's order to fly flags at half-mast on Good Friday. Souter said that this order would show that the state appreciates "the moral grandeur and strength of Christianity as the bulwark against the forces of destructive ideologies.

Reprinted with permission from NLNS Sept 21, 1990.

Toll free number to your representatives and senators in Washington, D.C.

1-800-852-3446

Be sure to call and let them know what you think about Souter, our presence in the Middle East, S & L fiasco, the oil companies, the Drug War, the forests, national health care, . . .

(Political Prisoners, cont.)

In May 1988, Berkman was transferred to a prison in Washington, D.C. to stand trial for the bombing of four U.S. buildings in 1983. Property damage from the bombings was minor and no one was injured. Berkman and five others have been charged with seditiously conspiring to influence U.S. policy through illegal means as a result of the bombing. However, none of the defendants have actually been charged with the bombing, only with being members of the group that claimed responsibility for the act.

Early this spring, Berkman's cancer reappeared. He is presently undergoing chemotherapy, and according to a circular published by the Resistance Conspiracy defendants, the new charges against him will be dropped as part of a plea bargain.

However, his does not change the fact that Berkman has been eligible for parole since May of 1987 and has already served "far more time than is called for by the sentencing guidelines" (Z Magazine, September 1990, P.12).

Another campaign is underway to grant Berkman parole on humanitarian grounds as a result of his renewed battle against cancer.

This is the first of a series of articles on political prisoners in the U.S. that will appear in WIP. Future topics will include Native American political prisoners and Leonard Peltier.

Blake Morgan is currently a student at Evergreen.

* TCTV Guide *

Channel 31

Saturday

9:30 am
THURSTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Local people working to safeguard our natural resources.
10 am
TALK 'N BASEBALL
Sports card collecting
10:30 am
HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE
Programs from the television production classes of local high schools.
12 pm
STUDENT FORUM
Local teens express their views about current issues of importance to them.
1 pm
VIDEO APPOINTMENT
Reviews of movies available at local video stores.
2 pm
OPEN MIC
Local performers showcase their talents.
2:30 pm
BRAVO VETERANS FORUM
3 pm
BRUCE MAIER SIDESHOW
Local artists, performers and arts organizations are featured.
4-6 pm
PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS
SPSCC Telecourse
6 pm
KOREAN HOUR I - *Korean Presbyterian Church of Olympia*
7-9 pm
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL (TENTATIVE)
9 pm
SQUIGGLES N' BITZ (R)

Sunday

8 am
DRAWING MEN TO CHRIST - *Bible Baptist Church*
9 am
FAITH 20 - *Christian Reformed Church*
10 am
SUNDAY MASS - *St. Michael's Church*
10:30 am
META VISIONS - *New Horizons Church*
11 am
FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION
Video tapes on peace and social justice concerns followed by a local discussion.
12 pm
COUNCIL ON AGING PRESENTS
Programs of interest to Seniors.
12:30 pm
CLOUDS CORNER
Nostalgically tinged show about local events, insights and interesting people.
1 pm
DEPERATELY SEEKING, SUSAN
Therapists and clients discuss how to overcome problems which prevent us form leading full happy lives.
2 pm
PROJECT UNIVERSE
SPSCC Telecourse
3:30 pm
SUNDAY MASS
4-6 pm
PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS
SPSCC Telecourse
6 pm
KOREAN HOUR II
7 pm
OUTLET
Local public affairs with George Barner and John Tennis.
8 pm
PANORAMA LATINO AMERICANO
The politics, culture and economy of Central America are examined through discussion by local people and videos obtained from Central America.
9 pm
NORTHWEST ENCOUNTER - *Associcated Ministries*
9:30 pm
CATCH THE SPIRIT - *United Methodist Church*
11 pm
BRIDE OF FUNNY GUY ON THE PROWL
Live comedy in the TCTV studio.

Monday

6 am
PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS
SPSCC Telecourse
7 am
CAPITOL EXPRESS (Live)
10 am
DOREAN HOUR I
11 am
KOREAN HOUR II
5 pm
PROJECT UNIVERSE
SPSCC TELECOURSE
6:30 pm
CAPITOL EXPRESS (R)

7 - 11 pm

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INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS AND INTERMITTENT SERIES

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11 pm
CAPITOL EXPRESS (R)
(Daily program about events and people in Thurston County. Live 7 am Monday - Friday.)

Tuesday

6 am
PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS
SPSCC Telecourse
7 am
CAPITOL EXPRESS (Live)
10 am
DRAWING MEN TO CHRIST
11 am
NORTHWEST ENCOUNTER
11:30 am
CATCH THE SPIRIT
12 pm
FAITH 20
12:30 pm
META VISIONS
1 pm
PANORAMA LATINO AMERICANO
4 pm
A HALF HOUR LIVE
6 pm
SANDY SMITH SHOW
6:30 pm
CAPITOL EXPRESS (R)
7 pm
OUTLET
8 pm
DESPERATELY SEEKING, SUSAN
9 pm
FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION
Premieres 2nd Tuesday.
10 pm
STUDENT FORUM
11 pm
CAPITOL EXPRESS (R)
11:30 pm
THURSTON CONSERVATION SERIES

Wednesday

6 am
PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS
SPSCC Telecourse
7 am
CAPITOL EXPRESS (Live)

(MONDAY REPEATS)

12:30 pm
SQUIGGLES N' BITZ
1 pm
BRUCE MAIER SIDESHOW
5 pm
SHARE THE WORD
5:30 pm
CHRISTOPHER CLOSE UP
6 pm
BRAVO VETERANS FORUM
6:30 pm
CAPITOL EXPRESS (R)
7 pm
COUNCIL ON AGING PRESENTS
7:30 pm
TALK'N BASEBALL (Live)
8 pm
HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS
10 pm
BRIDE OF FUNNY GUY ON THE PROWL
11 pm
CAPITOL EXPRESS (R)

Thursday

6 am
PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS
SPSCC Telecourse
7 am
CAPITOL EXPRESS (Live)

11 am
VIDEO APPOINTMENT
11:30 am
SANDY SMITH SHOW
12 pm
DESPERATELY SEEKING, SUSAN
1 pm
OUTLET
4:30 pm
TALK 'N BASEBALL
5 pm
STUDENT FORUM
6 pm
SQUIGGLES N' BITZ
6:30 pm
CAPITOL EXPRESS (R)
7 pm
THURSTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT
7:30 pm
CLOUDS CORNER
8 pm
JAPAN SPIRIT & FORM
9 pm
BRUCE MAIER SIDESHOW
10 pm
LIMITED LANE
(Local music and entertainment.)
11 pm
CAPITOL EXPRESS (R)

Friday

7 am
CAPITOL EXPRESS (Live)
10 pm
JAPAN - SPIRIT & FORM
11 am
CLOUDS CORNER
11:30 am
THRUSTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT
12 pm
SHARE THE WORD
12:30 pm
CHRISTOPER CLOSE UP
1 pm
FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION
2 pm
PROJECT UNIVERSE
SPSCC telecourse
5:30 pm
DONNA SEEGO SHOW
Psychic predictions for callers and guests, live Friday morning on KLDY radio..
6:30 pm
CAPITOL EXPRESS (R)
7 pm
OFF THE CUFF
(Call-in show)
8 pm
VIDEO APPOINTMENT
8:30 pm
OPEN MIC
9 pm
BRIDE OF FUNNY GUY ON THE PROWL (LIVE)
10 pm
DEEP DISH TELEVISION
"Fearless Television" from public access around the U.S.
11 pm
CAPITOL EXPRESS (R)

October

October 2nd

Mahatma Ghandi's birthday.

WORLD FARM ANIMAL DAY This day is to enhance public awareness of animal abuse and other destructive impacts of today's animal agriculture on human health, world hunger, natural resources, and environmental quality.

TEACH IN ON THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS 12 noon - 6 PM The Evergreen Library Lobby Speakers, Discussion, Workshops, Dinner. Evening Forum - 7 pm, St. John's Episcopal Church (20th and Capitol Way) Parish Hall. Sponsored by Olympia Anti-Intervention Coalition, Central American Action Committee. For more info call 866-9231

October 6th

1986 - 1700 women flight attendants win 18-year lawsuit, gain $37 million in damages from United Airlines which had fired them for getting married.

Last Day to register to vote in the November General Election!

October 7th

1879 - Birth of Joe Hill in Gavie, Sweden.

1990 - The first "Mental Awareness Week" in Thurston County. **"Steel Magnolias"** at the Olympia Little Theatre. Benefit for the Alliance for the Mentally Ill's newly-established housing fund. Tickets are $15 and include intermission refreshments. Doors open at 6:30 and the performance begins at 7:15 pm.

October 8th

Columbus who?

October 9th

OLYMPIA FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION TCTV PROGRAM - Veterans discuss "The Human Cost of War". Channel 31, 9 pm.

October 11th

OLYMPIANS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY regular meeting. 7:30 pm at 1215 W. 6th. For info call 491-9093.

October 16th

1859 - John Brown attacks Harper's Ferry Arsenal.

October 17th

1950 - `Salt of the Earth' strike in Silver City, New Mexico; strikers wives walked picket lines for seven months during 14-month strike.

FIST basic self-defense for women class. 5:30-8:30 pm at the Evergreen State College - CAB 108. This class is free and sponsored by the Student Affairs Office of the College as part of their safety education program. Call 438-0288 to pre-register.

FIST basic self-defense for women class. 7-9 pm at North Thurston High School - Aux Gym. Also called "Turn Fear Into Confidence", this class is sponsored by North Thurston School District's Cultural Enrichment Program. It costs $8. Call Joyce Lunstroth (491-8497) or Jacque Moore (491-5654) to register.

October 19th

1987 - Wall Street stock market crash.

October 20th

RACIAL UNITY AND DIVERSITY all-day workshop. Workshops in morning and panel discussion in afternoon. 10 am to 3 pm at First Christian Church. 7th & Franklin. Brownbag lunch. For information call 491-3765 or 459-9117.

Bring the troops home now!

"We must act, and act quickly, to mobilize the many thousands of Americans opposed to the unilateral decision of the bush administration to send such a collosal, destructive force to the Middle East." Ramsey Clark, former Attorney General of the United States

March and Demonstration against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East Olympia, WA. Planning meetings every Wednesday. For more info call 866-9231.

October 21st

1967 - Massive demonstration at the Pentagon.

OLYMPIA FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION monthly gathering. "Human Rights in Tibet". 3-5 pm at St. John's Epicopal Church, 19th & s Capi tol Way. Light refreshments. For info call 491-9093.

The organizers who worked with great dedication to make Labor Day: A Community Celebration - Pride & Solidarity so successful.

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WHO WILL CONTROL COMMUNICATION BY MAIL?

Corporations, the Bush Administration and president appointed officials within the Postal Service want to turn the Postal Service over to private business so that profits can be made and so that the last large area of public communication can be controlled by the market and hence big corporations. One of their tactics is to reduce service so that public support for this government service is eroded. For example, they have made budget cuts for window services while they post signs suggesting people go elsewhere for their postal needs.

We, the members of Olympia Local 2354 of the American Postal Workers Union, want the workers and the community to have more of a say in the Postal Service, not less, and we want better service to the community , not less.

We are asking community members to join us in an informational picket at the Olympia Post Office on Wednesday, October 17 at 3:30 p.m. We also ask that people write to their elected representatives and to Olympia postmaster Mike Loe protesting the poor service and efforts to contract out and privatize the Postal Service. Community members can also fill out Customer Consumer Cards available at the Post Office to voice your concerns. Make sure you get a response. We would appreciate copies of your correspondence.

For more information contact:

Olympia Local 2354
American Postal Workers Union

P.O. Box 1953 Olympia, WA 98507
Clint Burelson, President

Unions do more than negotiate wages.

Local 443 members joined other unions in giving $500 to the support of the September 3rd Community Celebration at Sylvester Park. One of our Local's objectives is to work with other labor organizations to see that "the material riches of American society are more justly distributred."

Make your impact on the world.

JOIN THE WASHINGTON FEDERATION OF STATE EMPLOYEES TODAY!

AFSCME - Local 443 - AFL-CIO P.O. Box 105, Olympia, WA 98507
Phone 943-7178 Helen Lee, President